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The Yearbook of the United Nations
Yearbook Express

Volume 62

YEARBOOK OF THE
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The Yearbook Express features Yearbook chapter introductions, along with the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, for each year in question.

YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 2008

Volume 62

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Introduction

1. As I come to the end of my second year at the helm of the United Nations, I am inspired by the commitment and energy of the people who serve this Organization; at the same time, I am acutely aware of the increasing weight of responsibility that lies on our collective shoulders. This past year we experienced a huge increase in the intensity of engagement across the entire spectrum of development, security, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues. The international community turned to us for assistance which ranged from helping victims of conflict and disaster and addressing the needs of the poor and hungry to restoring peace between warring parties and mobilizing the global community to address a new generation of global challenges like climate change and terrorism.

2. The rising demand for our services is daunting, and yet I am convinced that with dedication, focus and commitment we can live up to the hopes of all peoples who look to us to build a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

3. To achieve this necessary focus, in 2008 and for the rest of my tenure, we must dedicate our effort to three key areas: delivering results for people most in need, securing global goods, and creating a stronger United Nations through full accountability.

4. The United Nations has had a long and proud history of establishing norms and principles that govern international relations. That history can and must continue. But in this new era where the world is increasingly turning to the United Nations to deliver a wide range of services in just about every corner of the Earth, the biggest challenge we face is to deliver concrete results for people most in need, wherever they are. To meet these growing needs and high expectations, we must enhance our operational delivery. This means concentrating our resources where the Organization can make the biggest difference. We cannot just make promises or call on others to act; we cannot wait for solutions to emerge. We need to seize opportunities to show results now that justify the hopes for a better future.

5. The second area requiring our focus is securing global goods. The United Nations is uniquely placed to lead the effort to address global threats that endanger every person everywhere in the world, and to secure the corresponding goods. Challenges like climate change and global health know no borders and cannot be addressed by a single State or groups of States. As the only universal organization with a comprehensive mandate, ours has a strong comparative advantage with respect to catalysing action by all countries, and building new multi-stakeholder alliances. The United Nations must rise to this challenge, since there is no other forum that can legitimately address these issues on a global scale as effectively.

6. My message is clear: we will rise or fall together depending on the effectiveness of our common response. Strategies to address these new challenges will need to be developed globally, but the locus of action and responsibility will be primarily the national level. I appeal to Governments to take action, as the consequences of inaction will spare none.

7. To deliver results for a better world, we must work to strengthen the United Nations through full accountability. Only full accountability will enable us to achieve optimal outcomes. We must look at accountability not as a narrow technical issue, but as a fundamental organizing principle and operational guideline for our Organization, and must encourage Member States to adopt the same principle. An organization where all are held accountable for upholding their responsibilities will be a significantly stronger one.

8. Working together, we can improve the nature and quality of life of the world's population and we can prevent both national and global threats from escalating to catastrophic proportions.

As enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, we, the peoples of the United Nations, have this obligation and responsibility.

Chapter II

Delivering results for people most in need

9.   One of the most important roles that the United Nations can play is that of champion of the powerless, the forgotten and the marginalized. Our greatest responsibility is to ensure that we improve the welfare of these populations—that we deliver results to those most in need. This means that we must help Member States deliver on their Millennium Development Goal commitments, that we must use all the resources and expertise we have gained in the field of preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding to establish and preserve a secure and peaceful world, and that we must provide relief and rehabilitation assistance to victims of conflicts and disaster. It also means that we must work with the international community to ensure respect for human rights; support States in establishing rule of law, preventing genocide and delivering on their responsibility to protect; and assist them in establishing good governance and democracy.

A.   Development

10.   We must deliver results for a more prosperous and healthy world. Development should not be the privilege of a handful but a right for all. Yet, half of the world's adult population owns barely 1 per cent of global wealth. Although we have made significant gains towards the global goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015, many countries, particularly in Africa, are off-track with respect to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We must build on existing real and measurable progress, and scale up action and financing. But addressing the Millennium Development Goals is not enough: we must tackle the food crisis, climate change, natural disasters and violent conflicts which threaten to turn back the clock on development advances. And we must give priority to mitigating the impact of these forces on those most in need—the poor, women, and children, who are almost always the first and hardest hit.

11.   To deliver leadership in development in the face of today's global challenges, the United Nations will need a more coherent, focused and reinvigorated approach, building on the integration of the normative and operational strengths of the Organization as a whole. This is the thrust of the proposal I put forward in my report on strengthening the development pillar of the Secretariat (A/62/708), specifically its ability to deliver effectively and efficiently on its development mandates, to improve its strategic position in dealing with major development issues and processes, and to provide important benefits to Member States. I have encouraged Member States to act on the proposal during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. In the past year, I have also undertaken initiatives in a number of related priority areas: better linking normative, analytical and operational functions; strengthening global to regional, regional to national, and interregional linkages; furthering synergies among the work of the Secretariat, the United Nations funds and programmes and the United Nations system as a whole; and forging partnerships with key stakeholders who can complement our work in the development arena.

1.   The Millennium Development Goals
and the other internationally agreed development goals

12.   As we pass the halfway point on the path to reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, critical action is needed to meet all of them. The outlook for the education, health and environmental Millennium Development Goals are mixed. Across the board, gains in education

seem to be most encouraging, while those linked to maternal health are least on track. We must deliver on commitments already made as well as scale up existing successes and replicate them in other countries. I am calling on the United Nations system and Member States to make addressing the needs of the poorest, with a special focus on Africa, a central priority.

13.   While the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined over the years, 1.2 billion— most of whom are living in the least developed countries, especially in Africa—are still stuck in the poverty trap. Without immediate humanitarian aid and robust long-term investments in agriculture, the food crisis is expected to drive an additional 100 million people into extreme poverty. The effects of climate change will be no less severe.

14.   Many countries are close to delivering universal primary education. We must continue to build on and seek out innovative measures, such as school feeding programmes and school fee waivers, which have contributed to these advances. For example, the fact that countries like Malawi, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania abolished primary school fees has resulted in dramatic increases in enrolment rates. Many other countries, however, still face enormous challenges. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, about 41 million primary school age children are out of school; and in South Asia, 31.5 million remain out of school.

15.   Women are integral members of society and significant drivers of development. We must continue to fight for gender equality and to empower women. While women's status has improved in some areas like education, gender gaps remain pervasive. Women are underrepresented in politics and positions of power and are often paid less and subjected to far worse working conditions than men. Violence against women remains widespread, ranging from domestic violence to purposeful victimization in war, and constitutes a severe obstacle to the achievement of all global development goals. In January 2008, I launched a campaign to end violence against women, which aims at mobilizing public opinion, securing political will and ensuring increased resources to tackle this issue.

16.   Perhaps the worst gender disparities are seen in the area of health, where women make up more than half of adults living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa and every year more than 500,000 women continue to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Progress continues to be slowest in improving maternal health compared with all Millennium Development Goal targets, and the provision of adequate and reliable data at the national, regional and international levels disaggregated by sex remains a challenge. This is unacceptable. I am strongly committed to advancing progress on maternal health and I urge all Member States to allocate more attention and resources to this Goal.

17.   Not only is promoting and securing health for all ethical, but it also builds a foundation for prosperity, stability and poverty reduction. We must move forward in areas such as infant mortality and under-five mortality, measles and immunization, poliomyelitis and guinea worm eradication and scaling up of malaria control tools, and in that of HIV antiretroviral treatment.

18.   The AIDS epidemic continues to require an urgent response. While we have expanded access to antiretroviral treatment to 3 million people, infections continue apace, with 2.5 million newly infected in 2007 alone. The importance of prevention has never been clearer. With an estimated 33.2 million people now living with HIV, combating stigma and discrimination is equally important. The 2008 high-level meeting on AIDS reviewed progress achieved in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[1] and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS[2] and reminded us of our responsibilities in combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

19.   I am committed to advancing action on infectious diseases. About 1.2 billion of the world's poorest populations suffer from the crippling effects of neglected tropical diseases.

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[1] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

Malaria kills more than 1 million people every year. These numbers are unacceptable. The first HIV/Tuberculosis Global Leaders' Forum, held at the margin of the high-level meeting on AIDS this year, called for increased collaboration on the issue of HIV and tuberculosis co-infection. We must replicate proved strategies to combat these diseases. By 2010, I intend to ensure universal coverage against malaria through ensuring that all people at risk, especially women and children in Africa, are fully covered by indoor residual spraying and long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets. Our global efforts also start at home: this year I launched UN Cares, a programme to provide services such as training, counselling and testing for HIV-positive United Nations personnel and their families.

20.   Strengthening health systems provides the base for the dramatic scale-up of high-impact interventions needed to reach the health Goals. A comprehensive human resources strategy is key, particularly building up a cadre of community health workers who can provide basic services to the poor.

21.   Meeting the water and sanitation targets is also of critical importance. Almost 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion do not have access to adequate sanitation. We must double the current annual investment by the international community to about US$ 30 billion.

22.   The impacts of climate change, as seen through deforestation, soil erosion, desertification and land degradation, are aggravating poverty and threatening livelihoods. We must prioritize action to prevent a further loss in biodiversity and ensure that development efforts are environmentally sustainable.

23.   A global partnership for development is critical to revitalize efforts towards achieving the Goals. I urged world leaders to deliver on the official development assistance commitments made at the 2005 World Summit, at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, and in Gleneagles and Heiligendamm. I call for quick and concrete progress to achieve the goal of US$ 50 billion per year by 2010.

24.   Developing open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading and financial systems is integral to achieving the Goals. I am heartened by the Accra Accord adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its twelfth session (UNCTAD XII).[3] We must seek to implement its ambitious agenda and make globalization a powerful means to achieve poverty eradication.

25.   We must also aim for a successful outcome of the Doha round of trade negotiations this year. The continued deadlock poses a significant risk to the multilateral trading system and to the ability to achieve the Goals. Key World Trade Organization members must redouble efforts to produce a meaningful and significant development package. The food crisis is a grave sign of the need to break the impasse on agricultural trade liberalization.

26.   This year, we are at a turning point in the achievement of the Goals. The High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals on 25 September 2008 will be critical to catalysing the action needed to bridge the implementation gap. I urge Member States to provide strong leadership. The Doha Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus at the end of 2008 will offer another important opportunity to review many of the critical issues at stake. Let us ensure that the coming year is a "year of action"—one in which we translate our promises into food, shelter, education and health for those most in need.

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[3] TD/442, chap. II.

2. The special needs of Africa

27. During my tenure, I have made a special commitment to addressing Africa's peace, security and development needs. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa has played an important role in forwarding this agenda, as has the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group composed of multilateral development partners, which presented in June 2008 a set of practical costed recommendations for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in Africa. I urge all countries to work with me in implementing these important recommendations.

28. It is encouraging that the overall economic performance of Africa remains strong, with a 5.7 per cent growth of gross domestic product (GDP) and a 3.7 per cent per capita income increase in 2007, owing to improved macroeconomic management, and increased private capital flows, as well as better governance in many parts of the continent. Good governance and democracy are central to promoting overall prosperity, stability and peace, as acknowledged by African leaders themselves in the Constitutive Act establishing the African Union. I commit the United Nations to supporting efforts of Africa to improve and safeguard its young democracies.

29. However, while overall growth rates are positive, they are extremely unequal throughout the continent, with a number of countries experiencing negligible, if not negative, GDP growth rates. In countries where there has been positive growth, there is little evidence that the poorest are seeing an improvement in their circumstances. Scaling up public and private sector investments and exploiting regional resources are vital.

30. Progress requires peace and security. I have been greatly encouraged by the Security Council's support for African regional peace processes and initiatives, as well as the progress made by the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council in implementing their shared goal of developing a more structured relationship. The Peacebuilding Commission's engagement in Burundi, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau should assist in stabilizing their fragile economic and political environments. I encourage the General Assembly, Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to place the special needs of Africa at the forefront of their agenda.

31. I am committed to ensuring that the United Nations is optimally configured to help Member States make progress towards reaching their development goals. Throughout 2008, I took important steps to strengthen the development pillar of the Organization. The reinvigorated campaign under my leadership to attain the Millennium Development Goals, and other internationally agreed development goals, is one dimension of my strategy. Introducing managerial reforms that strengthen the Organization's ability to deliver effective programming is a second important dimension which is discussed later in the report. Working to strengthen greater linkages across the development activities of the larger United Nations system, particularly through the work of my Policy Committee, which has provided recommendations for addressing policy and programme gaps in the United Nations development initiatives, is a third dimension of my strategy. Finally, I have encouraged the United Nations system to forge stronger partnerships with key stakeholders who can complement our work in the development arena, including new and emerging development partners. These also include the business community, civil society, and other charitable groups, as well as regional organizations, all of which are discussed below.

B. Peace and security

32. We must deliver results for a more secure world. Once again, during this past year, in too many places around the world, children bore arms instead of holding textbooks, the earth was scorched instead of cultivated, and national revenues were diverted to arms instead of being spent

on education and health care. Every life lost and every penny spent on war was stolen from future generations.

33. The United Nations was called upon to assist in the search for peace or to promote dialogue and reconciliation on multiple fronts, including in the Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Myanmar, the Middle East, Nepal, Sri Lanka, northern Uganda, the Central African Republic, Chad, Western Sahara and elsewhere. Our efforts took many forms. In addition to development assistance and humanitarian aid, we engaged in preventive diplomacy and peace negotiations, conducted peacekeeping missions and supported peacebuilding efforts in the aftermath of war.

1. Preventive diplomacy and support to peace processes

34. Where fighting has erupted or has the potential to do so, lasting peace rests ultimately on finding political solutions to the issues that are the source of conflict. The scale and complexity of the political, preventive and peacemaking tasks before us have grown, while a commensurate strengthening of the relevant machinery of the United Nations is long overdue. The rationale and the proposals for strengthening the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat were expressed in detail in my report to the General Assembly (A/62/521 and Corr.1), issued on 2 November 2007. I view those proposals as a vital complement to the earlier reforms of United Nations peacekeeping operations and as one of my top priorities. The United Nations needs to become more effective not only at stabilizing conflict situations and dealing with their humanitarian side effects, but at preventing and resolving them through political means. In the area of conflict prevention and resolution, which are Charter responsibilities, we need to do better, and the proposals to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs are fundamental to achieving a more effective role for the United Nations in this important area. Those proposals respond, in particular, to the call for a more effective use of tools such as preventive diplomacy, mediation and my "good offices" in the service of Member States and our partners in regional organizations.

35. With voluntary support, we have already taken important strides in implementing the 2005 decision of Member States to strengthen my good offices capacity, including in the mediation of disputes. We now have a fully operational Mediation Support Unit and a rapidly deployable Standby Team of Mediation Experts which are at the service of United Nations envoys, Member States and regional organizations. We have increasingly solid partnerships with regional organizations and can call upon an array of experts to assist in peacefully resolving and preventing disputes.

36. This past year, the Organization was able in many instances to assist Member States with preventive diplomacy and to provide concrete support to peace processes. For example, Nepal, with the support of the United Nations, held a historic election for a Constituent Assembly and has now embarked on the transition to a new political future. In the Central African Republic, we supported the preparatory process for a national dialogue. Following the outbreak of post-electoral violence in Kenya, the United Nations supported the African Union-led mediation by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which enabled the people of Kenya to avoid a larger tragedy. In the search for a political solution in Darfur, my Special Envoy continued to work closely with the African Union to try to encourage cohesion, build trust and make progress on key issues such as security, while broadening the national, regional and international bases of support. In Somalia, despite deteriorating security on the ground, my Special Representative made determined efforts to move the political process forward, as contingency planning continued for a possible stabilization force and, subsequently, conditions permitting a peacekeeping operation. In Cyprus, with renewed impetus and political will on the part of the Cypriots and their leaders, the United Nations assisted in the launch and facilitation of a preparatory process intended to lead to full-fledged negotiations.

37. With the establishment of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), we are involved in an innovative attempt to dismantle criminal groups whose actions

threaten to erode hard-fought gains in the peace process. At the request of the Governments of Central Asia, we opened in Ashgabat, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia, with a mandate to assist them in managing shared threats peacefully. In Iraq, we took up the challenge of a strengthened mandate calling for a greater United Nations role in forging political dialogue and reconciliation between Iraqis, encouraging regional dialogue and assisting in the resolution of disputed internal boundaries.

38.   In the Middle East, I worked through the Quartet and with my envoys in the region to continue to push for comprehensive peace and security. An agreement to achieve the election of a president in Lebanon and indirect talks between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic gave some reason to hope that the dynamics might change, and I continue to strive for the attainment of a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians as soon as possible.

2.   Peacekeeping

39.   Peacekeeping is a core function of the United Nations. Peacekeeping operations constitute a critical step towards achieving sustainable peace. They have an important role in assisting national actors in the development and implementation of peacebuilding strategies and work in partnership with the United Nations country team, the international financial institutions and other international partners.

40.   In this sixtieth anniversary year of United Nations peacekeeping, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat leads 19 missions with more than 130,000 women and men, including troop and police contributions from 117 Member States, supported by a budget of some US$ 7 billion.

41.   In order to ensure that the current demands on our peacekeeping operations are met in such a way as to encompass their scale and complexity, I initiated the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. This included the creation of a new Department of Field Support, the establishment of the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Integrated Operational Teams, and a number of new shared mechanisms. The Department finalized several essential doctrine documents this past year including, notably, the "capstone" doctrine contained in "United Nations Peacekeeping Principles and Guidelines". The Department also continues to make progress on the Peace Operations 2010 reform agenda.

42.   During this reporting period, peacekeeping operations provided wide-ranging support to peace. In Haiti, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, our operations played a key role in supporting political processes, some of which hovered precariously between conflict and peace. In Kosovo, the role of the United Nations remained key to ensuring a safe and secure environment and stability in the region, and our operations adapted to the evolving situation on the ground so as to allow regional organizations such as the European Union to play a greater operational role within the status-neutral framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and under the overall authority of the United Nations.

43.   Peacekeeping operations also supported the efforts of State institutions to fully restore their authority. In Lebanon, for example, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is playing a key role in facilitating the return of the Lebanese Armed Forces to the area south of the Litani River, and in creating conditions within its area of responsibility needed to enable governing structures to function normally.

44.   Peacekeeping operations are working with key partners to provide more holistic support to national efforts in policing, the building of justice and corrections capacity, the removal of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and the design and conduct of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programmes. For example, in mid-March, an expert mission comprising various United Nations entities and external parties visited Timor-Leste and issued a report (S/2008/329, annex) that made comprehensive recommendations on policing and broader rule-of-law and security sector reform issues. Reflecting the need to ensure early deployment of

the police component, a Standing Police Capacity was established and deployed to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) to assist the Chadian law enforcement agencies in establishing and training a special Chadian police element.

45.   In 2008, peacekeeping operations also reinforced States' capacities to protect human rights through translating international human rights standards into national laws, regulations and policies. Missions advised on laws aimed at providing human rights protection in Burundi and Sierra Leone, and also assisted in strengthening domestic judicial processes in Liberia.

46.   In addition to support for our current operations, the past year saw the deployment of two of our most complex operations to date, namely, to Darfur and to Chad and the Central African Republic. The ongoing deployment of these operations has been supported by recent peacekeeping innovations. The first Integrated Operational Team at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Headquarters provided support to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur in developing and implementing an integrated deployment plan. It also supported the African Union and United Nations Special Envoys in their efforts to bring the parties to the negotiating table. To assist in our work in Chad, we developed innovative partnership arrangements with the European Union.

47.   Unfortunately, our many successes to date are challenged by two key issues: a number of unacceptable cases of sexual misconduct by some of our own peacekeepers and a mismatch between mandates and resources.

48.   Extensive activities have been undertaken at Headquarters and in the field to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel. These include: training, streamlined and strengthened reporting mechanisms, awareness-raising and outreach activities both for United Nations personnel and for the host populations, a pilot campaign to address prostitution/transactional sex, and the establishment of welfare and recreation activities. The Secretariat and Member States have also agreed to a new model memorandum of understanding with troop-contributing countries that provides the United Nations with more reliable leverage for addressing sexual exploitation. Member States have also adopted a comprehensive strategy on assistance to victims. We need to ensure that the Secretariat and Member States are serious about the issue and that action is taken as we strive towards zero impunity.

49.   Given the increased complexity and range of our operations and the difficult political and security environments in which many operations are deployed, now more than ever the international community must strengthen its commitment to them. Troop and police contributions are limited. Many Member States are already overstretched. Yet, at the same time, the demands being placed upon troop and police contributors and the Secretariat continue to rise. I urge Member States to maintain a common purpose behind peacekeeping. This requires sustained political engagement with relevant parties so that there is a peace to keep, and the provision of necessary resources to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping can live up to the expectations of it held by those most vulnerable.

3.   Peacebuilding

50.   Countries emerging from conflict face a unique set of challenges and unless they are identified and effectively addressed, these countries incur a high risk of relapsing into violence. Peacebuilding activities help promote peace agreements, lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development, and address the special needs of conflict-affected States. In 2006, Member States established a new peacebuilding architecture, comprising the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund. In the past year, these institutions further developed their methods of extending support to countries emerging from conflict.

51.   The Peacebuilding Commission, supported by the Peacebuilding Support Office, has demonstrated its added value in providing sustained attention to the countries under its consideration. The first two cases under its consideration, were Burundi and Sierra Leone, followed by Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic, which were referred to the Commission in December 2007 and June 2008, respectively. In Sierra Leone, it played an important role in assisting with the election process, while in Burundi, it assisted in averting a major crisis by facilitating a dialogue between key stakeholders who had reached a deadlock in parliament. The Commission has further developed its peacebuilding tools for strategic engagement, including a monitoring and tracking mechanism to measure progress made against the commitments contained in country-specific strategic frameworks.

52.   This past year, the Peacebuilding Fund continued to provide a crucial funding mechanism supporting early peacebuilding initiatives. It enjoyed strong financial support from Member States and recorded pledges of US$ 267 million, derived from a diverse base of some 44 individual donor countries. Significant progress has been made in strengthening the linkages between the Fund and the integrated strategic approaches to peacebuilding taken by the Commission. For instance, the designation of an initial funding envelope for Guinea-Bissau has provided immediate support while allowing for a better alignment in the long term between the Fund and the integrated peacebuilding strategy under deliberation in the Commission.

53.   In addition to providing financial support to the countries under consideration by the Commission, I have made active use of the Fund in support of peacebuilding efforts in countries that are not in the current agenda of the Commission, including the Central African Republic, Liberia and Nepal. I have commissioned, through the Peacebuilding Support Office, an external evaluation of the Fund for the purpose of reflecting on lessons learned during its first two years of operation and further enhancing both its strategic and its catalytic role.

54.   Peacebuilding is not just about "bricks and mortar": it is a transformative process involving changing attitudes about how to manage conflict. As dealing with the aftermath of war can be costly, strengthening our capacity to resolve conflicts earlier rather than later is among the smartest investments we can make. For this reason, I am deeply committed to strengthening our peacebuilding institutions and ensuring that they are optimally configured to meet evolving needs.

C.   Humanitarian affairs

55.   Some of the most vulnerable and "in need" populations around the world are those that have been affected by conflicts and natural disasters. In spite of increasing global challenges, the humanitarian community has made significant strides in delivering accountable, predictable and timely assistance. Nevertheless, these efforts must be strengthened even further with additional resources and continued reforms.

56.   The unprecedented increases in food prices, compounded by a decades-long decline in investment in agriculture, have reduced access to food for hundreds of millions of people. In response to the recent crisis, I created a High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis which has developed a Comprehensive Framework for Action giving us a clear road map regarding how to address the crisis. The Framework has been welcomed by many Member States. United Nations organizations are meanwhile responding to the urgency of the situation. For example, the World Food Programme has raised US$ 3 billion of the US$ 6 billion needed for 2008. I have set aside a reserve of US$ 100 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to help fund new humanitarian needs related to soaring food prices. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has launched a US$ 1.7 billion appeal to provide low-income countries with seeds and other agricultural support.

57.   The rise in the number and intensity of extreme weather events has also been striking, with an increasing number of the poor being affected by drought, floods and cyclones. In 2007,

the United Nations launched an unprecedented 15 Flash Appeals, 14 of which were in response to extreme weather events in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

58. One of the largest disasters in 2008 was Cyclone Nargis which hit Myanmar in May and claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, with millions severely affected. This disaster and the initial access problems for international relief workers highlighted the need to strengthen our partnership with regional organizations and to work with Governments to create operating environments conducive to their receiving effective assistance. The earthquake in Sichuan Province, China, also in May 2008, illustrated how disaster events can surpass even the disaster response capacities of major countries. These events underscored vividly once again the importance of working closely with Governments to reduce disaster risk through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.[4]

59. Despite the consolidation of peace and relative stability in Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal and Timor-Leste, a number of major internal conflicts continue, with large numbers of civilians requiring urgent humanitarian assistance and protection. Forced displacement, violations of the rules of international humanitarian law governing conduct of hostilities, sexual violence and ensuring safe and unhindered humanitarian access remain significant challenges for the humanitarian community.

60. For some 36 million people affected by armed conflict, flight is the only option, either within or across borders. At the end of 2007, the world's refugee population had reached 9.9 million people, more than half of them children. The overall global population of internally displaced persons was about 26 million and rising.

61. The United Nations and its partners have increased their efforts to address the humanitarian situations in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Occupied Palestinian Territories where insecurity hinders access to many vulnerable people. For example, 12 months of restrictions imposed on the movement of commercial and humanitarian goods and people in and out of Gaza have had severe consequences for the well-being of the population, 75 per cent of whom rely on international assistance. Notwithstanding rising insecurity in Afghanistan, particularly in the southern provinces, the World Food Programme was able to reach close to 6.8 million beneficiaries in 2007.

62. The humanitarian community remains actively engaged in a number of countries in Africa, with some of the largest operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Sudan. Darfur remains the world's largest humanitarian operation, with 14,700 humanitarian aid workers delivering assistance to 4.27 million affected individuals. While the situation remains fragile between the North and the South, approximately 1 million displaced persons and refugees have returned to the Southern Sudan.

63. The Central Emergency Response Fund, which had provided predictable funding to sudden-onset and neglected crises since its inception in 2006, exceeded the US$ 1 billion mark in pledges at the donor conference in December 2007, and will be close to its annual grant element target of US$ 450 million in 2008. Pledges have been received from over 90 Member States. The Fund has distributed over US$ 800 million in over 60 countries. I encourage all Member States to continue to contribute to this effective multilateral relief capacity.

D. Human rights, rule of law, genocide prevention and the responsibility to protect, and democracy and good governance

64. Respecting human rights, providing justice and the rule of law, preventing genocide and delivering on the responsibility to protect, and establishing democracy and good governance are

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[4] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

core responsibilities of all Member States and of the United Nations itself. They define what it means to deliver results for a more just world. 2008 is a pivotal year for human rights: it is the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[5] I have called on the entire United Nations family to strengthen their advocacy efforts and take concrete steps to integrate human rights into all aspects of the Organization's work. The responsibility falls on us to advance the original vision of the Declaration—a vision encompassing one indivisible set of rights, inalienable to all humankind.

1. Human rights

65.   This past year, I was pleased to witness the positive impact of recent institutional reforms in the human rights machinery, including the strengthening of the Human Rights Council, the bolstering of the United Nations rapid response capacity, the streamlining of existing institutions and the adoption of new human rights instruments.

66.   The Human Rights Council launched the Universal Periodic Review this year, and examined the record of 32 States. The process is an important advance for the future of the Council and its role in the Organization's human rights machinery. The Council must ensure that assessments are fair, that review processes and methods are transparent and that nations are held accountable for progress, stagnation or regression in the implementation of human rights standards. Failure to do so could lead to distrust and disillusionment, as arose in the final years of the Commission on Human Rights. Given the range and scope of allegations of human rights violations throughout the world, the Council must address all such situations to ensure full credibility.

67.   Thanks to the continued strengthening of the Peace Missions Support and Rapid Response Units established in 2006, the Organization was also able to carry out more robust emergency missions to address unforeseen human rights situations in the field. Most recently, it conducted a three-week fact-finding mission to assess allegations of grave human rights violations committed in the post-election period in Kenya and to gather first-hand information from diverse sources.

68.   The Rapid Response Unit is one reflection of the increasing human rights presence of the United Nations on the ground. As at December 2007, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights supported 8 regional offices, 11 country offices and 17 human rights components of peace missions with 400 international human rights officers and national staff. The importance of this field presence should not be underestimated, as our experience is showing that the presence of United Nations human rights officers in conflict-prone environments may act as a deterrent to would-be human rights violators.

69.   The human rights treaty bodies worked towards further harmonizing their respective working methods, adopting changes that would also complement the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review mechanism. To further ensure streamlining, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was moved from New York to Geneva.

70.   On 13 September 2007, in a milestone move, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.[6] In May 2008, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[7] and the Optional Protocol thereto[8] entered into force, providing a full range of reporting, complaint and inquiry mechanisms.

71.   We are embarking on a new era in human rights. Never before have we generated such wide international acceptance of and consensus on human rights standards. We have expanded

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[5] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[6] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.
[7] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.
[8] Ibid., annex II.

and strengthened our tools and mechanisms for monitoring and encouraging compliance. Now, let us use our institutions and tools to deliver results for all people, everywhere.

2. Rule of law

72.   The United Nations has reaffirmed repeatedly the centrality of the rule of law to human development and the maintenance of peace and security. The demand for our assistance in this area continues to grow, with the United Nations system now working in over 80 countries to help States translate international legal standards into national legislation and to support the development of constitutions, justice institutions and legal frameworks. Yet, we continue to face numerous challenges. For example, in many countries, the culture of impunity and lack of accountability, even for the most serious international crimes, gravely undermines the rule of law.

73.   This year, the United Nations system made progress in strengthening its rule-of-law capacity, and in enhancing system-wide coordination and coherence, particularly in conflict and post-conflict environments. I have also sought to strengthen the Organization's policy development and coordination capacity by establishing a Rule of Law Unit to support the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group which ensures coherence of rule-of-law activities within the United Nations system. I am pleased to observe that Member States, in General Assembly resolution 62/70, expressed their support for the new rule-of-law arrangements and I anticipate that the reinvigorated common approach that they advance will improve the quality of the rule-of-law assistance that we provide to Member States.

3. Genocide prevention and the responsibility to protect

74.   The concept of the responsibility to protect was embraced by the 2005 World Summit and has been endorsed by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is sustained by the positive and affirmative vision of sovereignty as responsibility and rests on three pillars: the affirmation of Member States that they have a primary and continuing legal obligation to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and from their incitement; the acceptance by Member States of their responsibility to respond in a timely and decisive manner, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to help protect populations from the four types of crimes described above; and the commitment of the United Nations system to assist States in meeting these obligations. This past year, I instructed the Organization to begin to take the initial steps to ensure that the system has the flexibility and capacity to help Member States meet their commitments. I look forward to seeing this capacity institutionalized towards the end of the year.

4. Democracy and good governance

75.   While democracy has made gains in many regions, there have been important setbacks, as witnessed by the failure of some States to conduct free and fair elections, the adoption of states of emergency, increased restrictions on the independence of the media, and crackdowns on political and civil liberties. Experience has shown us that disregard for democratic principles poses serious security, economic and social challenges which often transcend national borders. For this reason, the role of the United Nations in strengthening democratic institutions and practices is inseparable from its work in promoting peace and security, development and human rights.

76.   Highlights in the past year of the work of the United Nations in this area included support to the Constituent Assembly process in Nepal and to the electoral authorities of Sierra Leone. Of course, just as democracy entails more than elections so is electoral assistance only one means by

which the United Nations helps to promote democracy. The Organization also provided support through programmes fostering good governance practices and democratic institutions.

77.   The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) provides assistance to governmental, non-governmental, national, regional and international organizations, including relevant United Nations departments, offices, funds, programmes and agencies, in funding projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The Fund has received approximately US$ 90 million to date. It had launched its second call for project proposals in 2007 and received a total of 1,873 applications from 137 countries, 85.9 per cent of which were submitted by civil society organizations. In mid-May 2008, 86 projects were approved.

78.   I call on Member States to recommit themselves to promoting democracy on 15 September, the newly established International Day of Democracy at the United Nations.

E.   System-wide coherence

79.   In the past year, Member States—through the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review—have renewed their guidance to the United Nations system with a view to its becoming more coherent, efficient and effective at country, regional and global levels. This and other guidance from Member States, including through the ongoing informal consultations in the General Assembly on system-wide coherence, continue to direct our work in this area.

80.   I am pleased to report that the "Delivering as One" initiative—launched in January 2007 upon the request of Governments in eight pilot countries—has started to yield some important results and lessons. It has reaffirmed that national ownership and leadership are essential components of increased coherence. It is clear that the United Nations system can maximize its support for national priorities only through the process of working together, leveraging more effectively its respective capacities and expertise. There are encouraging signs that, in the pilot countries, Governments have experienced improved United Nations delivery of programmes and reduced transaction costs.

81.   At Headquarters level, the United Nations Development Group continued to develop guidance on national ownership in the programming process, harmonized policies and procedures, training to upgrade the skills of United Nations country teams, and improvement in the selection and accountability of, and support provided to, resident coordinators. It also significantly enhanced coherence of response in post-crisis situations. Another major step towards improved United Nations system coordination was the decision in 2007 to formally make the United Nations Development Group a third pillar of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in order to ensure complementarity and reduce overlap between the two coordination bodies. This streamlining will result in important improvements in United Nations internal coordination and system-wide coherence, and will ultimately improve United Nations support to Member States.

82.   Finally, as part of a continuing effort to ensure efficiency and coherence in communications, the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) brings together United Nations system organizations, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The Groups exist at the country level in over 80 countries. Over the past year, this Group contributed to developing and implementing communications strategies, including the crafting and dissemination of coherent messages and information products, on the Millennium Development Goals, climate change and the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, among other concerns.

Chapter III
Securing global goods

83.   The United Nations is uniquely placed to lead the world in responding to twenty-first century threats that transcend borders, threatening all nations and all peoples. As I scan the immediate horizon, I perceive four issues that fall within this category of challenges: climate change, counter-terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, and global health. I am convinced that the United Nations, with its global reach, legitimacy and unique ability to convene both State and non-State actors, has a vital role to play in ensuring that nations come together to secure the associated global goods for future generations.

A.   Climate change

84.   Climate change has been among my top priorities since I became Secretary-General. I am delighted to report that last year, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, former Vice-President of the United States of America. The Nobel Prize Committee recognized this important body's long-standing commitment to improving our knowledge concerning man-made climate change, and its efforts towards laying the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.

85.   On 24 September 2007, I convened a high-level event on climate change in New York on the margins of the General Assembly which brought together 80 world leaders to discuss how to address climate change and galvanize support for advancing the negotiations.

86.   This meeting set the tone for the United Nations-sponsored climate talks in December of last year where Member States reached an important agreement on climate change, including the adoption of the Bali road map setting out the process for developing a new global agreement to help confront climate change. Subsequent negotiations have been designed to develop a shared vision for a long-term global goal of reducing emissions; promote national/international action on mitigation and adaptation; encourage technology development and transfer; and provide developing countries with the financial resources and investment required for addressing environmental challenges. The negotiating process continues this year with an important session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Poznań, Poland, in December, and is set to culminate in an agreed outcome in Copenhagen in 2009.

87.   The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) provides a good example of how the United Nations can harness the power of the market. The total traded volume in the global carbon market rose from US$ 31 billion in 2006 to US$ 64 billion in 2007. The Clean Development Mechanism now boasts over 1,000 registered projects in 49 countries all over the world. Various United Nations organizations are supporting countries in broadening the geographical reach of the Mechanism, and in increasing the sustainable development benefits in addition to that of producing reductions in emissions.

88.   I am pleased to observe the coordinated way in which the United Nations has come together to work with nations on adaptation and on helping to mainstream climate change into policy and development plans. One good example of our work to date is the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to Climate Change coordinated by secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This programme, launched by the intergovernmental process, brings together over 100 United Nations entities and other organizations to promote adaptation assessment and planning, to incorporate adaptation into all relevant policy areas and to foster assistance to developing countries in line with their needs.

89.   Another example is the Nairobi Framework to support developing countries' participation in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This joint effort of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the World Bank has made substantial progress. Partner agencies are also working together on the organization of the first-ever African Carbon Forum, which will be held in Dakar in September 2008 providing an excellent opportunity to keep up the positive momentum of the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa.

90.   At the United Nations, I have determined that the plan for renovating our New York Headquarters should follow strict environmental guidelines, including the reduction of our carbon footprint. I have asked the chief executives of all United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies to move swiftly towards climate neutrality in their operations.

91.   We are also redoubling our efforts to communicate the messages on climate change to the public. The message of World Environment Day for 2008, bearing the slogan "Kick the habit! towards a low-carbon economy", has been that our world is in the grip of a dangerous carbon habit which is causing the build-up of significant greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These in turn are contributing to climate change. The solution requires widespread changes in the behaviour and action of individuals, business and Governments.

B.   Global health

92.   There is growing political awareness that health is fundamental to economic growth and development, and that threats to health can compromise a country's stability and security.

93.   In recent years, there has been an unprecedented rise in public and private funding directed towards health challenges. Bilateral aid has increased substantially, and so have the budgets of major health-related United Nations organizations such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Bank, as well as those of major global health partnerships. Private philanthropy and the corporate sector have scaled up action and become full partners with Governments and non-governmental organizations in the delivery of care in poor countries. Numerous country-led initiatives have been set in motion, spearheaded primarily by Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France and Canada.

94.   Within this new global health sphere, the United Nations system has been able to make significant progress on several fronts. As highlighted in Chapter II, section A, above, these include the fight against diseases like measles and poliomyelitis and specific tropical diseases, as well as malaria and HIV/AIDS. However, significant challenges remain. Inadequate advancements in meeting the health Goals have been largely due to deficient health systems, threats to health security posed by pandemic influenza and other emerging diseases, and profound inequities in health, as well as the failure to protect the poor from ill health and insufficient health expenditures.

95.   The growing number of initiatives and partnerships, which offer a critical new opportunity and challenge, are welcome but have thus far failed to generate cohesive and coherent action. The United Nations health-related organizations, namely, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and UNAIDS, have reached out and partnered with the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to enhance dialogue and coordination. The creation of this group, the so-called H8, represents an encouraging step towards achieving increased coherence among key players inside and outside the United Nations system.

96.   In order to push for decisive and coherent action, I have convened the leaders of United Nations-related entities and prominent non-United Nations figures from foundations, the private sector, civil society and academia to explore new opportunities in global health, discuss the strategic role of the United Nations in shaping the future of global health, and focus on critical priorities, in particular building functioning and affordable health systems, advancing progress on women's health, especially maternal health, and pushing for action on addressing neglected tropical diseases.

97.   Upcoming intergovernmental meetings such as the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held at Doha in November-December 2008, will offer opportunities to push for action on this front, and I encourage all stakeholders to continue to build on the current momentum in order to finally end the senseless suffering.

C.   Countering terrorism

98.   The threat of terrorism to international peace, security and development is significant and affects people in every part of the world. The United Nations has itself suffered terrorism-related losses, most recently in the wake of the 11 December 2007 attack on the United Nations offices in Algiers. My thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones, whose sacrifice will be remembered.

99.   The two-year review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will be held in September 2008, provides us with an opportunity to recommit ourselves to combating this scourge. The Strategy, drafted and adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, lays out concrete measures for responding to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism in all its forms, strengthening the individual and collective capacity of States and the United Nations to do so, and ensuring the protection of human rights and the rule of law. The adoption of the Strategy has demonstrated the important role that the United Nations can play in curbing this threat, but only its implementation will solidify our relevance in this area. The positive reports coming out of the various meetings of the Assembly on the Strategy inspire me with confidence in our ability to succeed.

100.   The main responsibility for implementing the Strategy falls on Member States. Nonetheless, various Secretariat departments, specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes contribute to this important endeavour—individually, collectively and with partners. In Tunis, in November 2007, the United Nations, in partnership with the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, held an International Conference on Terrorism: Dimensions, Threats and Countermeasures. The United Nations also collaborated with Member States and regional organizations in holding, in May 2007, the Vienna Symposium to Discuss Practical Measures to Implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

101.   The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which brings together 24 entities of the United Nations system, has worked on system-wide implementation efforts and provided implementation support to Member States. The Task Force has established nine working groups in areas of the Strategy where coordination and cooperation across the United Nations system can add value. The topic areas include the link between conflict prevention/resolution and terrorism, radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism, victims of terrorism, prevention/response to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction, financing of terrorism, use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, protection of vulnerable targets, and protection of human rights while countering terrorism. In addition, the Task Force is also working to enhance the ability of the United Nations to help, upon their request, interested Member States

implement the Strategy in an integrated manner via a user-friendly interface with the United Nations system.

102.   I have also asked the Department of Safety and Security to focus on prevention and mitigation measures relating to United Nations personnel operating in hostile environments. At the same time, preventive measures depend on the effective cooperation of Member States. In its resolution 59/276 (of 23 December 2004), the General Assembly emphasized that "the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises rests with the host country". Accordingly, the United Nations is engaged in renewed dialogue to determine where enhanced cooperation and coordination with host-country authorities can be achieved. This work has been given additional impetus by the recurrent statements of extremist groups threatening to target humanitarian organizations. In February of this year, I appointed an Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide, headed by Lakhdar Brahimi and composed of international experts in the field. Its report, released in June, recognizes that risk management is not consistently understood or applied by all actors. It calls for a review of the size of the United Nations staff presence and the manner in which the system does business in light of security considerations. I am carefully examining the report and will be taking follow-up action. As a first step, and on the recommendation of the report, I have suggested establishing an independent accountability procedure to review the responsibilities of the key individuals and offices concerned in the Algiers attack. I am committed to working towards ensuring a safer and better environment for this Organization in the pursuit of its noble tasks.

103.   Strategic partnerships among Member States, the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and civil society remain crucial in the fight against terrorism. We must continue to work together to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and, through our efforts, to create a more secure world.

D.   Disarmament and non-proliferation

104.   The risks inherent in the very existence of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, are universally recognized. I welcome recent initiatives aimed at achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, as well as reductions of nuclear arsenals and reduced reliance on nuclear weapons. However, further reductions in strategic and non-strategic stockpiles, greater transparency, de-alerting and a diminished role for nuclear weapons in security policies are needed.

105.   The year 2008 marks the fortieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.[9] The Treaty must be strengthened and trust in it must be rebuilt, as part of a broader process of reaffirming the rule of law as well as the importance of multilateralism. Preparations for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty are proceeding satisfactorily.

106.   I support efforts for a peaceful political solution regarding concerns over the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran and urge the implementation of all measures to build confidence in its exclusively peaceful nature.

107.   I am encouraged by the continued determination and efforts by States to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force as soon as possible. I am pleased to report progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.[10] States parties have developed a focused programme on national, regional and

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[9] General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, annex; see also United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity. To support these activities, an Implementation Support Unit has been set up within the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

108. Efforts continue in the Conference on Disarmament to overcome the long-standing deadlock over its priorities. In January 2008, I urged Members to forestall arms races, reduce tensions and free resources for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Successful negotiations on a fissile material ban and substantive discussions on preventing the placement of weapons in outer space, nuclear disarmament and security assurances depend on high-level leadership and political support.

109. Controlling conventional weapons remains central to United Nations disarmament efforts. I have reinforced the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism under which standards on small arms control are now being developed. Strong calls to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions have been answered with the adoption in May of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

110. The revitalization of multilateral disarmament efforts is within reach. Full implementation of existing multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and the achievement of their universality remain a major challenge. Strengthening existing regional mechanisms and developing effective partnerships, in accordance with chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, would help bolster progress and unlock the current disarmament stalemate.

111. The establishment of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in 2007 increased the advocacy potential of the Organization. Under the leadership of its High Representative, the Office has effectively promoted greater awareness of the challenges posed by disarmament and non-proliferation and has enhanced its engagement and cooperation with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

Chapter IV
Creating a stronger United Nations through full accountability

112. In order to deliver on the increasing demands for our services, we need a stronger, more effective and modern Organization. Based on mandates agreed by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit and subsequent General Assembly mandates and changes made by the Secretary-General, a large number of wide-ranging reforms are now being implemented.

113. In order to strengthen the Organization's overall accountability framework, I have called for the establishment of a new accountability compact with senior managers. I am committed to ensuring that there is accountability within the Secretariat, flowing both ways between me, to senior managers, and staff. I am also taking steps to strengthen the Secretariat's accountability to Member States for ensuring that the Organization is well managed, upholding individual and collective integrity, and delivering results.

114. I am asking Member States to be accountable to the Organization and to each other, by providing sufficient political, financial and human resources to implement the mandates given and by living up to their intergovernmental commitments.

115. Further, I hope that over the next few years we will all work, the Secretariat and Member States included, on increasing our accountability to the global public, in whose name we all serve, and to those we are assisting at the country level. Accountability goes beyond answering to those who have delegated authority to us: it also means taking into account the interests of those affected by our actions.

A. The Secretariat, the intergovernmental machinery, regional organizations, and global constituencies

116. When I took my oath of office, I promised to breathe new life into the Secretariat. In my address to the General Assembly last September, I spoke of building a stronger United Nations for a better world. I am taking steps to reform the Secretariat, and I am also committed to working with Member States to ensure that our intergovernmental machinery meets the changing and growing demands on the United Nations today.

1. The Secretariat

117. To enable us to do the job expected of us, we must have a strong, empowered Secretariat that has a management infrastructure built around achieving results. For this reason, I proposed a new accountability architecture, including the full implementation of results-based management and enterprise risk management. A results-based management approach requires managers to state clearly what they intend to achieve and to align their staff and financial resources with these goals. It will also require managers themselves to monitor and evaluate their programmes regularly and systematically in order to identify problems and take corrective actions so as to increase the likelihood of delivering the intended results. To this end, the senior managers' compacts, which are shared with staff, continue to provide a transparent means for reflecting goals, highlighting priorities and assessing whether results have been achieved.

118. As the Secretariat becomes less Headquarters-based and more operational, it will require different skill sets among its staff. Anticipated retirements—for example, 23.3 per cent of staff at the Director level will retire in the next three years—offer an opportunity to update the staff profile to better meet emerging needs. To this end, the Secretariat is proactively conducting workforce planning, improving its recruitment processes, and proposing contract terms and conditions of service that will increase the likelihood of attracting and retaining high-calibre staff. Staff mobility is essential to producing a more versatile and multi-skilled workforce which can rise to today's complex challenges. I am committed to ensuring that gender equality is given high priority in our staffing policies.

119. The Secretariat is also making itself more responsive to the needs of the field by reforming its procurement policies and procedures. Comprehensive guidelines and controls will be implemented. Professionalism is being enhanced through intensified training and better use of technology, with strengthened emphasis on ethics and transparency.

120. The new system of the administration of justice approved by the General Assembly in 2007 will further advance the goal of accountability and better management in dealing with internal employment-related disputes. A strengthened, integrated Office of the Ombudsman, which includes a Mediation Division, will form a critical "informal" pillar in this system, identifying and resolving problems at the earliest opportunity, thereby averting time-consuming and costly formal adjudication. The new internal justice system is anticipated to be in place by January 2009.

121. Taking full advantage of information and communications technology (ICT) is central to improving efficiency and effectiveness and strengthening accountability. Since August 2007, the Chief Information Technology Officer has spearheaded the drive for a strong and unified ICT strategy. One important effort under way entails introducing an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system to replace the current Integrated Management Information System. The goal is to build an integrated global information system that supports the effective management of human, financial and physical resources, while also incorporating streamlined processes and best

practices. The ERP system, when implemented, will also enable the Organization's planned adoption of, and compliance with, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

122. To further enhance performance and responsiveness, I have also placed greater Secretariat-wide emphasis on documentation delivery in a timely, cost-effective manner. In its pursuit of greater efficiencies, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat chaired a meeting of conference managers from the United Nations system in June to explore the feasibility of applying the "Delivering as One" concept to the area of conference servicing and management. In order to meet our multilingual mandate, maximize cost-effectiveness and ensure the highest standards of quality in the delivery of language and conference services, it is crucial for us to join forces with our United Nations system partners to pool scarce conference-servicing resources and to coordinate efforts in the area of recruitment of language staff.

123. Although many of these management reforms are in an early stage and have not yet had time to bear full fruit, the Secretariat is in fact already seeing positive results. For example, the Department of Management's 2007 client satisfaction staff survey showed substantial increases in favourable responses to questions regarding improvements in efficiency of delivery of services (up 11 per cent from 2006), the streamlining and simplification of rules and processes (up 10 per cent from 2006) and the ability to access information from the Department of Management in a timely manner (up 11 per cent from 2006).

2. Intergovernmental machinery

124. The international political environment has changed significantly since the United Nations was founded, and in this context I attach great importance to the reform of the Security Council. I share Member States' growing recognition that there is no perfect solution and welcome their discussions on the possibility of intermediate or interim solutions.

125. I am following with interest efforts by the General Assembly aimed at modernization and at increasing its effectiveness. Holding interactive debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community like climate change, the Millennium Development Goals, management reform, human security and human trafficking has succeeded in stimulating valuable discussion and underscoring the importance of this universal forum.

126. In order to provide more opportunity for direct exchange, in the past year I began to brief the General Assembly periodically on my most recent activities. These informal meetings of the plenary have allowed for an interactive engagement with Member States, thereby providing an important additional tool for enhancing dialogue, transparency and accountability. I intend to continue this important practice.

127. Reforms proposed by Member States at the 2005 World Summit to strengthen the effectiveness of the Economic and Social Council in promoting a global partnership for development continued to be institutionalized in 2008. Most notably, during the high-level segment of its substantive session, the Council held its first Development Cooperation Forum and its second annual ministerial review. The Development Cooperation Forum discussed "how to make development cooperation more coherent and more effective" and developed valuable strategic input to the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development and the Accra High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. During the annual ministerial review, eight countries—developing and developed—reported on the progress they had made towards achieving the goals and targets of the United Nations development agenda. Ministerial round tables addressed the question how to put the world on a sustainable development path. I welcome and encourage an energized Council and look forward to its recommendations on measures that the international community can take to improve implementation of agreed development goals and promote sustainable development.

3. Cooperation with regional organizations

128. From the highest political level on down to the field, the United Nations and regional organizations are strengthening their partnerships and working more closely than ever in responding to the challenges of peacekeeping, peacemaking and post-conflict peacebuilding.

129. The Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme frames our growing partnership with the African Union, the importance of which was also reflected in the debate in the Security Council on my report on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security (S/2008/186). An important illustration is provided today in Darfur, where joint efforts are under way with the African Union both in peacekeeping and in promoting the political process.

130. In Asia, the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations joined forces to respond to the emergency needs of Myanmar following tropical cyclone Nargis. In November 2007, the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference undertook a joint effort to further the fight against terrorism. The Tunis Conference, mentioned in paragraph 100 above, provided an excellent opportunity to discuss and build understanding of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as implementation efforts pick up. The United Nations also cooperated with the European Commission in implementing the European Union and Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership, as well as with the Ibero-American General Secretariat in organizing the policy dialogue of Heads of State on social cohesion during the Seventeenth Ibero-American Summit held in Santiago in November 2007.

131. There is clear political recognition that regionalism as a component of multilateralism is necessary and feasible. I am optimistic that an effective sharing of responsibilities for peace and security between international and regional organizations, particularly in Africa, is now within reach.

B. Global constituencies
1. Strengthening partnerships with civil society

132. I am happy to report that not only has civil society's engagement with the work of the United Nations increased but it may also become more results-oriented, as reflected in targeted engagement on key thematic issues like development, human rights and climate change. It has become a well-established practice for the General Assembly to conduct interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector during all major United Nations conferences.

133. The number of civil society organizations involved in development work that were granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council increased by 136 over the past year, from 3,051 in 2007 to 3,187 at the present time in 2008. Their active participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues on financing for development and sustainable development enriched both discussions and was reflected in the outcomes of intergovernmental meetings in these areas. There are 1,664 non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat that support its mission to make the public around the world better aware of the work of the Organization.

134. Human rights were a major focus of innovative partnerships initiated with civil society. For the first time, the annual DPI/NGO Conference is scheduled to be held outside United Nations Headquarters; the Conference will be held in Paris, home to the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The theme of the September 2008 event is "Reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60". The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme initiated groundbreaking collaboration with public institutions in arranging four regional seminars designed to enhance the capacity of local staff at United Nations information

centres worldwide to help "mobilize civil society for Holocaust remembrance and education, in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide".

135. A new outreach programme on "Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade" has been established, featuring participation by a number of civil society groups, including academic institutions, collaboration with which is also the focus of initiatives launched this year to invigorate partnership.

136. Collaboration between civil society and the United Nations continued in support of internationally agreed development goals. In the "Stand Up and Speak Out against Poverty" initiative, United Nations information centres worked with the Millennium Campaign Office and civil society to promote awareness of the Millennium Development Goals. An estimated 43 million people participated worldwide.

2. Engaging the business community

137. The business community is an increasingly important partner in achieving United Nations goals, particularly those related to sustainable development, including climate change and peace and conflict. For example, in February 2008, the Organization hosted the Third Investor Summit on Climate Risk through which public treasuries, institutional investors and financial services firms pledged to invest $10 billion over two years in clean technologies.

138. Almost all United Nations organizations, funds and programmes have staff dedicated to working with business in a wide range of engagements. Additionally, the United Nations Global Compact, through its thousands of business participants located in over 120 countries, is a source of significant avenues for the advancement of United Nations principles in business communities globally, particularly in developing countries.

139. The United Nations has taken concrete steps to increase the effectiveness and accountability of the Organization's growing relationships with business. This February, the Organization launched a review of the "Guidelines between the United Nations and the Business Community" to reflect experiences across the Organization. Also under way is the development of a new United Nations-business website which will better facilitate identification of partners. Additionally, the "Partnership Assessment Tool" and the *Business Guide to Partnering with NGOs and the United Nations: Report 2007/2008* were both released in the past year.

140. Achieving United Nations goals, especially the Millennium Development Goals, will require more and deeper collaboration with the private sector. The September 2008 High-level Event on the Goals will include the business community in discussions on necessary steps to be taken to accelerate their achievement. Additional opportunities to increase and enhance engagement with the private sector must be explored at the broad organizational level and also within individual organizations, funds and programmes.

Chapter V
Conclusion

141. The United Nations is situated at the nexus of some of the most important and complex issues facing the world at present. Today, more than ever, thanks to its universal membership and global reach, the United Nations can effect positive global change, making the world a safer, more prosperous and more just place for all people. During my tenure, I am committed to seizing this opportunity and ensuring that we work with all partners to not only deliver results to those most in need but also help the world address the global threats through securing global goods. These goals will not be reached, however, unless full accountability becomes both our organizing

principle and our operational guideline. We must take decisive action and allow the good of humanity to be our beacon call. I believe we can deliver a better world to future generations, and, indeed, to this generation. I look forward to working with all Member States towards meeting this awesome and crucial challenge.

Annex

Millennium Development Goals, targets and indicators, 2008: statistical tables

Goal 1
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1.A
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Indicator 1.1
Proportion of population living below $1 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day
(no new global or regional data are yet available)

Indicator 1.2
Poverty gap ratio
(no new global or regional data are yet available)

Indicator 1.3
Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
(Percentage)

	2005[a]
Northern Africa	6.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.9
Eastern Asia	4.3
Southern Asia	7.4
South-Eastern Asia	5.7
Western Asia	6.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	7.0
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	8.2

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

Target 1.B
Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

Indicator 1.4
Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed
(a) Annual growth rate of GDP per person employed

(Percentage)

	1997	2007[a]
World	2.5	3.3
Developing regions	3.6	5.5
Northern Africa	-1.4	2.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.5	3.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.4	2.9
Eastern Asia	7.1	8.5
Southern Asia	2.2	5.4
South-Eastern Asia	2.4	3.6
Western Asia	2.8	2.2
Oceania	-5.8	1.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	2.9	6.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	1.3	9.8
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	3.4	6.1
Developed regions	2.2	2.1
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	-3.6	6.4
Least developed countries	1.8	4.5
Landlocked developing countries	1.4	4.8
Small island developing States	2.0	3.2

[a]Preliminary data.

(b) GDP per person employed

(2000 United States dollars (PPP))

	1997	2007[a]
World	16 223	20 489
Developing regions	8 126	11 837
Northern Africa	14 495	16 487
Sub-Saharan Africa	4 544	5 348
Latin America and the Caribbean	17 906	19 459
Eastern Asia	6 795	13 667
Southern Asia	6 067	8 974
South-Eastern Asia	8 267	9 789
Western Asia	23 022	25 850
Oceania	6 822	6 733
Commonwealth of Independent States	11 143	18 465

	1997	2007[a]
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	5 480	10 982
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	12 739	20 965
Developed regions	53 109	63 292
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	11 010	18 332
Least developed countries	2 775	3 598
Landlocked developing countries	3 618	4 842
Small island developing States	14 963	18 645

[a]Preliminary data.

Indicator 1.5
Employment-to-population ratio
(a)   Total
(Percentage)

	1997	2000	2007[a]
World	62.6	62.2	61.7
Developing regions	64.8	64.1	63.2
Northern Africa	43.6	43.2	45.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	67.8	67.1	66.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	59.0	59.3	60.0
Eastern Asia	74.9	73.9	71.9
Southern Asia	57.6	57.2	56.4
South-Eastern Asia	67.2	66.7	66.4
Western Asia	48.1	47.7	48.3
Oceania	68.2	68.9	70.0
Commonwealth of Independent States	54.9	53.9	56.2
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	57.0	57.3	58.7
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	54.3	52.9	55.4
Developed regions	56.1	56.6	56.3
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	54.3	52.3	49.8
Least developed countries	70.5	70.1	69.4
Landlocked developing countries	67.7	67.9	68.5
Small island developing States	56.2	57.8	58.6

[a]Preliminary data.

(b)   Men, women and youth, 2007[a]
(Percentage)

	Men	Women	Youth
World	74.3	49.1	47.8
Developing regions	77.1	49.1	48.9
Northern Africa	70.0	22.1	27.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	78.9	55.1	54.8

	Men	Women	Youth
Latin America and the Caribbean	73.7	47.1	44.4
Eastern Asia	78.4	65.2	63.0
Southern Asia	77.6	34.1	41.9
South-Eastern Asia	78.2	54.9	47.0
Western Asia	69.9	24.9	33.9
Oceania	73.8	66.2	56.3
Commonwealth of Independent States	63.0	50.4	35.0
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	65.6	52.4	37.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	62.1	49.8	33.9
Developed regions	63.9	49.0	44.1
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	56.1	44.0	26.6
Least developed countries	82.2	57.7	58.7
Landlocked developing countries	77.7	59.6	57.0
Small island developing States	72.1	45.5	42.5

[a]Preliminary data.

Indicator 1.6
Proportion of employed people living below $1 (PPP) per day
(Percentage)

	1997	2007[a]
World	24.2	16.4
Developing regions	30.6	20.4
Northern Africa	3.0	1.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	55.5	51.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	11.6	8.0
Eastern Asia	18.8	8.7
Southern Asia	51.5	31.5
South-Eastern Asia	24.1	13.3
Western Asia	2.9	5.4
Oceania	22.9	21.6
Commonwealth of Independent States	6.5	1.5
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	11.0	5.8
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	5.2	0.0
Developed regions	0.2	0.1
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	3.8	2.3
Least developed countries	51.8	47.0
Landlocked developing countries	43.5	37.1
Small island developing States	18.7	20.3

[a]Preliminary data.

Indicator 1.7

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

(a) **Both sexes**

(Percentage)

	1997	*2007*[a]
World	52.8	49.9
Developing regions	64.4	59.9
Northern Africa	35.2	32.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	76.1	71.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	31.4	33.0
Eastern Asia	63.2	55.7
Southern Asia	79.2	75.8
South-Eastern Asia	63.4	59.3
Western Asia	37.1	29.1
Oceania	62.3	68.5
Commonwealth of Independent States	13.9	15.3
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	33.4	31.3
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	8.4	10.0
Developed regions	11.4	9.5
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	31.6	26.4
Least developed countries	82.6	77.2
Landlocked developing countries	70.5	68.7
Small island developing States	33.4	36.7

[a]Preliminary data.

(b) **Men**

(Percentage)

	1997	*2007*[a]
World	50.7	48.7
Developing regions	60.6	57.0
Northern Africa	31.8	30.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	70.1	64.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	32.1	33.3
Eastern Asia	57.9	52.3
Southern Asia	75.8	72.9
South-Eastern Asia	59.0	56.0
Western Asia	32.3	26.2
Oceania	56.1	62.7
Commonwealth of Independent States	14.7	15.7
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	32.8	30.1
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	9.2	10.6
Developed regions	11.6	10.3

	1997	2007[a]
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	29.8	26.9
Least developed countries	77.8	72.4
Landlocked developing countries	67.8	65.7
Small island developing States	33.8	37.5

[a]Preliminary data.

(c) **Women**

(Percentage)

	1997	2007[a]
World	56.1	51.7
Developing regions	70.7	64.4
Northern Africa	46.8	40.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	84.4	80.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	30.1	32.5
Eastern Asia	69.6	60.1
Southern Asia	87.5	82.6
South-Eastern Asia	69.6	63.8
Western Asia	52.9	37.7
Oceania	69.4	75.0
Commonwealth of Independent States	13.1	14.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	34.0	32.6
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	7.6	9.3
Developed regions	11.1	8.4
Transition countries in South-Eastern Europe	33.9	25.7
Least developed countries	89.1	83.9
Landlocked developing countries	73.9	72.4
Small island developing States	32.7	35.4

[a]Preliminary data.

Target 1.C
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Indicator 1.8
Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age
(a) **Total**

(Percentage)

	1990	2006
Developing regions	33	26
Northern Africa	11	6
Sub-Saharan Africa	32	28
Latin America and the Caribbean	13	8
Eastern Asia	17	7

	1990	2006
Southern Asia	54	46
South-Eastern Asia	37	25
Western Asia	14	13
Oceania	—	—

(b) By sex[a]
(Percentage)

	Boys	Girls	Boy-to-girl ratio
Developing regions	27	27	1.00
Northern Africa	7	6	1.16
Sub-Saharan Africa	29	27	1.07
Latin America and the Caribbean	9	9	1.00
Eastern Asia	10	11	0.91
Southern Asia	41	42	0.98
South-Eastern Asia	26	26	1.00
Western Asia	14	14	1.00
Oceania	—	—	—

[a]1998-2006.

Indicator 1.9
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption[a]
(Percentage)

	1990-1992	2001-2003
Developing regions	20	17
Northern Africa	4	4
Sub-Saharan Africa	33	31
Latin America and the Caribbean	13	10
Eastern Asia	16	12
Southern Asia	25	21
South-Eastern Asia	18	12
Western Asia	6	9
Oceania	15	12
Commonwealth of Independent States	7[b]	7
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	16[b]	20
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	4[b]	3
Developed regions	<2.5[b]	<2.5
Least developed countries	22	19
Landlocked developing countries	38	36
Small island developing States	23	19

[a]No new global or regional data are available. Data presented are from the 2006 report (A/61/1).
[b]Data referring to the period 1993-1995.

Goal 2
Achieve universal primary education
Target 2.A
Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicator 2.1
Net enrolment ratio in primary education

(a) **Total**[a]

	1991	2000	2006
World	82.0	84.9	88.5
Developing regions	79.6	83.3	87.5
Northern Africa	82.8	91.3	95.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	53.5	58.0	70.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	86.7	94.4	95.5
Eastern Asia	98.0	99.1	94.3
Southern Asia	71.9	80.1	89.8
South-Eastern Asia	95.6	94.3	95.0
Western Asia	80.4	84.8	88.3
Oceania	—	—	—
Commonwealth of Independent States	90.0	89.9	93.3
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	88.3	92.4	93.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	90.8	88.0	92.8
Developed regions	97.9	97.4	96.4
Least developed countries	53.0	60.2	74.9
Landlocked developing countries	53.7	63.0	76.3
Small island developing States	67.3	81.5	75.1

[a]Primary- and secondary-level enrolees per 100 children of primary-education enrolment age. Ratios correspond to school years ending in the years for which data are presented.

(b) **By sex**[a]

	1991		2000		2006	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
World	87.2	76.7	87.7	81.9	89.9	87.0
Developing regions	85.7	73.3	86.4	79.9	89.1	85.8
Northern Africa	89.7	75.5	94.0	88.4	96.8	93.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	57.5	49.5	61.3	54.7	73.5	67.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	87.5	86.3	95.1	93.6	95.3	95.7
Eastern Asia	100.0	97.3	98.5	99.8	94.0	94.7
Southern Asia	85.7	57.0	86.7	73.0	92.0	87.3
South-Eastern Asia	97.8	94.0	95.5	93.0	95.8	94.1
Western Asia	87.0	73.3	89.1	80.4	91.7	84.8
Oceania	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1991		2000		2006	
	Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*
Commonwealth of Independent States	90.2	89.8	90.3	89.6	93.3	93.2
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	88.6	88.0	92.6	92.2	94.5	93.3
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	91.0	90.6	88.5	87.5	92.4	93.1
Developed regions	97.7	98.1	97.5	97.4	96.0	96.8
Least developed countries	58.6	47.2	63.7	56.7	77.7	72.1
Landlocked developing countries	58.2	49.2	67.4	58.5	79.0	73.6
Small island developing States	63.6	71.1	82.8	80.1	76.2	74.0

[a]Primary- and secondary-level enrolees per 100 children of primary-education enrolment age. Ratios correspond to school years ending in the years for which data are presented.

Indicator 2.2

Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary[a]

	1999			2006		
	Total	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*
World	82.1	84.8	79.2	86.3	88.2	84.4
Developing regions	79.4	82.6	75.9	84.7	86.9	82.5
Northern Africa	86.6	90.4	82.6	91.9	94.0	89.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	49.0	53.1	45.0	59.8	64.7	54.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	96.6	96.1	97.1	100.4	99.7	101.1
Eastern Asia	101.7	101.4	102.0	98.1	98.5	97.8
Southern Asia	68.8	75.3	61.7	81.3	83.9	78.5
South-Eastern Asia	89.2	89.9	88.4	95.4	95.4	95.4
Western Asia	80.4	86.8	73.8	88.9	94.3	83.2
Oceania	62.8	65.7	59.7	66.1	69.9	62.1
Commonwealth of Independent States	96.0	96.4	95.5	98.3	98.5	98.1
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	95.7	96.2	95.1	100.9	101.7	100.0
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	96.1	96.5	95.6	96.4	96.1	96.7
Developed regions	99.2	98.6	99.9	97.0	96.5	97.5
Least developed countries	47.2	51.2	43.1	57.2	60.9	53.4
Landlocked developing countries	53.1	58.4	47.8	61.0	65.3	56.6
Small island developing States	73.9	73.9	74.0	73.3	73.4	73.1

[a]Primary completion rates correspond to school years ending in the years for which data are presented. The primary completion rate is calculated using the gross intake rate at the last grade of primary, which is defined as follows: "Total number of new entrants in the last grade of primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population of the theoretical entrance age to the last grade". (*Global Education Digest 2004: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World* (Montreal, Canada, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS), 2004), annex B, p. 148).

Indicator 2.3
Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men
(a)   Total
(Percentage who can both read and write)

	1985-1994	*1995-2004*[a]	*2007*
World	83.5	87.0	89.1
Developing regions	80.2	84.6	87.2
Northern Africa	68.4	79.4	86.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	64.4	70.2	72.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	93.7	96.2	97.0
Eastern Asia	94.5	98.9	99.2
Southern Asia	60.6	72.8	79.9
South-Eastern Asia	94.5	96.1	95.6
Western Asia	88.6	91.7	92.8
Oceania	72.9	73.1	70.6
Commonwealth of Independent States	99.7	99.7	99.7
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	99.6	99.6	99.6
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	99.7	99.7	99.7
Developed regions	99.4	99.4	99.4
Least developed countries	55.5	64.7	68.0
Landlocked developing countries	60.8	67.8	70.4
Small island developing States	86.9	87.8	89.8

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

(b)   By sex[a]
(Percentage who can both read and write)

	1985-1994		*1995-2004*		*2007*	
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
World	87.8	79.2	90.2	83.8	91.3	86.8
Developing regions	85.3	75.0	88.3	80.8	89.8	84.6
Northern Africa	77.8	58.6	85.3	73.3	90.8	82.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	70.8	58.6	76.0	65.0	77.2	67.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	93.2	94.2	95.7	96.7	96.5	97.4
Eastern Asia	97.1	91.8	99.2	98.5	99.4	99.1
Southern Asia	71.5	49.1	80.6	64.5	84.5	75.0
South-Eastern Asia	95.4	93.5	96.3	96.0	95.3	95.8
Western Asia	93.9	82.9	95.5	87.9	96.1	89.3
Oceania	75.0	70.7	75.0	71.1	69.8	71.5
Commonwealth of Independent States	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.6
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.8
Developed regions	99.5	99.4	99.4	99.4	99.4	99.3

	1985-1994		1995-2004		2007	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Least developed countries	63.0	48.5	71.5	58.3	73.4	62.9
Landlocked developing countries	66.3	55.8	74.3	61.9	76.5	64.7
Small island developing States	86.6	87.2	86.8	88.9	88.4	91.3

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

Goal 3
Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 3.A
Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicator 3.1
Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
(a)   **Primary**[a]

	1991	2000	2006
World	0.89	0.92	0.95
Developing regions	0.87	0.92	0.94
Northern Africa	0.82	0.91	0.93
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.83	0.85	0.89
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.97	0.97	0.97
Eastern Asia	0.94	1.01	0.99
Southern Asia	0.77	0.84	0.95
South-Eastern Asia	0.97	0.97	0.97
Western Asia	0.83	0.88	0.91
Oceania	0.90	0.90	0.89
Commonwealth of Independent States	0.99	0.99	0.99
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	0.99	0.99	0.98
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	1.00	0.99	1.00
Developed regions	0.99	0.99	1.00
Least developed countries	0.79	0.86	0.90
Landlocked developing countries	0.82	0.83	0.90
Small island developing States	0.96	0.95	0.95

[a]Using gross enrolment ratios.

	1991	*2000*	*2006*
World	—	0.93	0.95
Developing regions	—	0.90	0.94
Northern Africa	0.79	0.95	0.99
Sub-Saharan Africa	—	0.82	0.80
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.09	1.07	1.07
Eastern Asia	—	0.97	1.01
Southern Asia	0.60	0.77	0.85
South-Eastern Asia	0.90	0.98	1.02
Western Asia	—	0.80	0.84
Oceania	0.82	0.91	0.88
Commonwealth of Independent States	1.03	1.00	0.97
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	0.98	0.97	0.96
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	1.06	1.02	0.98
Developed regions	1.01	1.01	1.00
Least developed countries	—	0.82	0.82
Landlocked developing countries	0.85	0.86	0.83
Small island developing States	1.05	1.04	1.03

[a]Using gross enrolment ratios.

(c) Tertiary[a]

	1991	*2000*	*2006*
World	—	0.96	1.06
Developing regions	—	0.78	0.93
Northern Africa	0.54	0.68	1.00
Sub-Saharan Africa	—	0.62	0.68
Latin America and the Caribbean	—	1.13	1.16
Eastern Asia	—	0.55	0.93
Southern Asia	—	0.67	0.76
South-Eastern Asia	0.83	0.95	0.98
Western Asia	—	0.82	0.90
Oceania	—	0.68	0.86
Commonwealth of Independent States	1.16	1.21	1.29
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	1.04	0.90	1.07
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	1.20	1.27	1.33
Developed regions	1.07	1.20	1.28
Least developed countries	—	0.65	0.62
Landlocked developing countries	0.86	0.75	0.83
Small island developing States	—	1.21	1.54

[a]Using gross enrolment ratios.

Indicator 3.2
Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
(Percentage of employees)

	1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2006*
World	35.5	36.5	37.7	39.0
Northern Africa	20.9	21.0	19.3	21.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	25.3	26.9	28.5	30.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	36.4	38.6	40.5	42.3
Eastern Asia	38.0	38.8	39.6	41.1
Southern Asia	13.2	14.9	16.7	18.6
South-Eastern Asia	37.7	37.1	38.6	37.8
Western Asia	17.0	17.6	19.2	20.3
Oceania	33.2	34.7	35.8	36.4
Commonwealth of Independent States	49.2	49.6	50.4	51.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	44.7	45.3	46.2	47.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	50.1	50.5	51.2	52.2
Developed regions	43.3	44.5	45.3	46.3

Indicator 3.3
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament[a]
(Percentage)

	1990	*1997*	*2002*	*2008*[b]
World	12.8	11.4	13.8	18.0
Developing regions	10.4	10.1	12.1	16.5
Northern Africa	2.6	1.8	2.2	8.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	7.2	9.0	12.0	17.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	11.9	12.4	15.7	22.2
Eastern Asia	20.2	19.3	20.2	19.8
Southern Asia	5.7	5.9	4.9	12.9
South-Eastern Asia	10.4	10.8	13.9	17.4
Western Asia	4.6	3.0	5.2	9.1
Oceania	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.5
Commonwealth of Independent States	—	6.2	8.6	13.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	—	7.0	8.8	13.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	—	5.4	8.4	13.9
Developed regions	16.3	15.6	19.1	22.6
Least developed countries	7.3	7.3	10.4	17.0
Landlocked developing countries	14.0	6.6	10.7	18.6
Small island developing States	15.2	11.3	14.2	21.0

[a] Single or lower house only.
[b] As of 31 January 2008.

Goal 4
Reduce child mortality
Target 4.A
Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
Indicator 4.1
Under-five mortality rate[a]

	1990	2000	2006
World	93	80	72
Developing regions	103	88	80
Northern Africa	82	48	35
Sub-Saharan Africa	184	167	157
Latin America and the Caribbean	55	35	27
Eastern Asia	45	36	24
Southern Asia	120	94	81
South-Eastern Asia	77	47	35
Western Asia	69	47	40
Oceania	85	73	66
Commonwealth of Independent States	47	41	30
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	79	64	47
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	27	23	17
Developed regions	11	8	6
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	30	19	15

[a]Deaths of children before reaching age 5 per 1,000 live births.

Indicator 4.2
Infant mortality rate[a]

	1990	2000	2006
World	64	55	49
Developing regions	70	60	54
Northern Africa	62	39	30
Sub-Saharan Africa	109	100	94
Latin America and the Caribbean	43	29	22
Eastern Asia	36	29	20
Southern Asia	86	69	61
South-Eastern Asia	53	35	27
Western Asia	54	38	32
Oceania	62	54	49
Commonwealth of Independent States	39	34	26
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	64	54	40
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	22	20	15
Developed regions	9	6	5
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	23	16	13

[a]Deaths of children under age 1 per 1,000 live births.

Indicator 4.3
Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles[a]
(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2006
World	72	72	80
Developing regions	71	69	78
Northern Africa	84	93	96
Sub-Saharan Africa	56	55	72
Latin America and the Caribbean	76	92	93
Eastern Asia	98	85	93
Southern Asia	57	57	66
South-Eastern Asia	72	81	82
Western Asia	79	87	88
Oceania	70	68	70
Commonwealth of Independent States	85	97	97
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	—	96	95
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	85	97	99
Developed regions	84	91	93
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	91	93	93

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

Goal 5
Improve maternal health
Target 5.A
Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
Indicator 5.1
Maternal mortality ratio[a]

	1990	2005
World	430	400
Developing regions	480	450
Northern Africa	250	160
Sub-Saharan Africa	920	900
Latin America and the Caribbean	180	130
Eastern Asia	95	50
Southern Asia	620	490
South-Eastern Asia	450	300
Western Asia	190	160
Oceania	550	430
Commonwealth of Independent States	58	51
Developed regions	11	9
Least developed countries	900	870

[a]Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

Indicator 5.2
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
(Percentage)

	Around 1990	*Around 2006*
World	49	62
Developing regions	47	61
Northern Africa	45	79
Sub-Saharan Africa	42	47
Latin America and the Caribbean[a]	68	86
Eastern Asia	71	98
Southern Asia	27	40
South-Eastern Asia	48	73
Western Asia	60	75
Oceania	—	—
Commonwealth of Independent States	96	98
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	92	97
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	99	99
Developed regions	—	—
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	99	98

[a]For deliveries in health-care institutions only.

Target 5.B
Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health
Indicator 5.3
Contraceptive prevalence rate[a]
(Percentage)

	1990	*2005*
World	52.8	62.2
Developing regions	50.2	61.2
Northern Africa	44.0	59.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	12.0	20.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	62.0	71.5
Eastern Asia	77.5	86.4
Southern Asia	38.5	52.7
South-Eastern Asia	47.9	58.3
Western Asia	43.3	54.8
Oceania	—	28.8[b]
Commonwealth of Independent States	61.2[c]	67.0
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	54.5[c]	56.8
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	63.4	71.3
Developed regions	66.5	67.3
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	56.0	55.3
Least developed countries	16.1	30.3

	1990	2005
Landlocked developing countries	22.6	32.2
Small island developing States	46.8	52.9

[a]Among women aged 15-49 who are married or in union.
[b]Data from 2000.
[c]Data from 1995.

Indicator 5.4
Adolescent birth rate[a]

	1990	2005
World	61.0	48.6
Developing regions	66.5	53.1
Northern Africa	42.9	31.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	130.6	118.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	77.4	73.1
Eastern Asia	21.3	5.0
Southern Asia	90.1	53.7
South-Eastern Asia	50.4	40.4
Western Asia	63.6	50.2
Oceania	82.3	63.5
Commonwealth of Independent States	52.1	28.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	44.8	28.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	55.2	28.1
Developed regions	34.7	23.6
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	48.2	29.0
Least developed countries	129.3	117.6
Landlocked developing countries	104.5	105.3
Small island developing States	80.4	69.7

[a]Births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years.

Indicator 5.5
Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)
(a) **At least one visit**[a]
(Percentage)

	Around 1990	Around 2005
World	55	75
Developing regions	54	74
Northern Africa	47	70
Sub-Saharan Africa	68	75
Latin America and the Caribbean	77	95
Eastern Asia	—	—
Southern Asia	39	65
South-Eastern Asia	71	93
Western Asia	54	76
Oceania	—	—

	Around 1990	Around 2005
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	89	98

[a]Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who received antenatal care during pregnancy from skilled health personnel, at least once.

Indicator 5.6
Unmet need for family planning[a]
(Percentage)

	1995	2005
Northern Africa	16.3	10.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	25.7	24.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	12.4	10.5
Southern Asia	19.1	14.8
South-Eastern Asia	12.8	11.1
Western Asia	16.4	12.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	15.0	13.9[b]
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	14.7	15.0

[a]Among married women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years).
[b]Latest available data pertain, approximately, to 2000.

Goal 6
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Target 6.A
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
Indicator 6.1
HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
(Percentage)

	1990		2002		2007	
	Estimated adult (15-49) HIV prevalence	Adults (15+) living with HIV who are women	Estimated adult (15-49) HIV prevalence	Adults (15+) living with HIV who are women	Estimated adult (15-49) HIV prevalence	Adults (15+) living with HIV who are women
Developing regions	0.3	51	1.0	57	0.9	58
Northern Africa	<0.1	20	<0.1	27	0.1	29
Sub-Saharan Africa	2.1	54	5.4	59	4.9	59
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.2	27	0.5	35	0.6	35
Eastern Asia	<0.1	19	0.1	26	0.1	28
Southern Asia	<0.1	35	0.3	38	0.3	38
South-Eastern Asia	0.2	15	0.4	32	0.4	34
Western Asia	<0.1	41	0.1	46	0.1	47
Oceania	<0.1	27	0.4	36	1.3	39
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	<0.1	10	<0.1	21	0.1	25
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	<0.1	[a]	0.7	27	1.2	31
Developed regions	0.2	14	0.3	21	0.3	23

[a]Data not available: epidemics in this region are recent and no data are available for earlier years.

Indicator 6.2
Condom use at last high-risk sex,[a] 2000-2006[b]

	Women		Men	
	Number of countries covered by surveys	*Percentage who used a condom at last high-risk sex*	*Number of countries covered by surveys*	*Percentage who used a condom at last high-risk sex*
Sub-Saharan Africa	35	31	24	46
Latin America and the Caribbean	11	47	—	—
Southern Asia	1	22	2	38
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	3	52	—	—

[a]Proportion of young women and men aged 15-24 years reporting the use of a condom during sexual intercourse with a non-regular sexual partner in the last 12 months, among those who had such a partner in the last 12 months.
[b]Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.

Indicator 6.3
Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS,[a] 2000-2006[b]
(Percentage)

	Women		Men	
	Number of countries covered by surveys	*Percentage who have comprehensive knowledge*	*Number of countries covered by surveys*	*Percentage who have comprehensive knowledge*
Developing regions	62	26	—	—
Northern Africa	3	8	—	—
Sub-Saharan Africa	39	25	24	30
Southern Asia	3	23	2	43
South-Eastern Asia	4	23	—	—
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	10	24	—	—
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	7	20	—	—
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	7	19	2	6

[a]Proportion of young women and men aged 15-24 who correctly identify the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner), who reject two common local misconceptions and who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit the AIDS virus.
[b]Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.

Indicator 6.4
Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years,[a] 2000-2006[b]

	Number of countries with data	*School attendance ratio*
Sub-Saharan Africa	40	0.81

[a]Ratio of the current school attendance rate of children aged 10-14 years both of whose biological parents have died, to the current school attendance rate of children aged 10-14 years both of whose parents are still alive and who currently live with at least one biological parent.
[b]Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.

Target 6.B
Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Indicator 6.5
Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs[a]
(Percentage)

	2006	*2007*
Developing regions	22	31
Northern Africa	24	32
Sub-Saharan Africa	21	30
Latin America and the Caribbean	57	62
Eastern Asia	18	18
Southern Asia	10	16
South-Eastern Asia	32	44
Oceania	25	38
Commonwealth of Independent States	9	14

[a]Receiving antiretroviral therapy.

Target 6.C
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Indicator 6.6
Incidence and death rates associated with malaria (no global or regional data are available)
Indicator 6.7
Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets[a]
(Percentage)

Sub-Saharan Africa (36 countries)	7
South-Eastern Asia (5 countries)	2

[a]2000-2006.

Indicator 6.8
Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs
(Percentage)

Developing regions (49 countries)	20
Sub-Saharan Africa (38 countries)	36
South-Eastern Asia (5 countries)	2

Indicator 6.9

Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

(a) **Incidence**

(Number of new cases per 100,000 population excluding HIV-infected)

	1990	*2000*	*2006*
World	123	127	128
Developing regions	150	150	151
Northern Africa	54	50	44
Sub-Saharan Africa	157	253	291
Latin America and the Caribbean	99	67	53
Eastern Asia	119	105	100
Southern Asia	172	168	165
South-Eastern Asia	271	229	210
Western Asia	54	43	38
Oceania	201	191	183
Commonwealth of Independent States	48	104	105
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	60	104	117
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	44	104	101
Developed regions	25	19	15
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	61	84	76

(b) **Prevalence**

(Number of existing cases per 100,000 population, excluding HIV-infected)

	1990	*2000*	*2006*
World	293	268	214
Developing regions	369	324	256
Northern Africa	60	52	45
Sub-Saharan Africa	352	493	521
Latin America and the Caribbean	152	94	67
Eastern Asia	319	266	197
Southern Asia	529	435	287
South-Eastern Asia	475	333	264
Western Asia	92	63	51
Oceania	590	470	371
Commonwealth of Independent States	78	152	124
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	100	138	140
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	71	156	118
Developed regions	29	22	15
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	101	123	84

(c)   Deaths

(Number per 100,000 population, excluding HIV-infected)

	1990	*2000*	*2006*
World	27	26	22
Developing regions	34	32	26
Northern Africa	5	4	4
Sub-Saharan Africa	39	55	59
Latin America and the Caribbean	13	9	6
Eastern Asia	24	20	15
Southern Asia	44	40	29
South-Eastern Asia	65	46	31
Western Asia	8	6	6
Oceania	52	42	34
Commonwealth of Independent States	8	17	16
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	9	15	17
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	8	17	15
Developed regions	3	2	2
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	9	11	11

Indicator 6.10
Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course

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

(DOTS smear-positive case detection rate: percentage)

	2000	*2006*
World	28	61
Developing regions	29	62
Northern Africa	85	88
Sub-Saharan Africa	35	45
Latin America and the Caribbean	40	69
Eastern Asia	30	78
Southern Asia	14	63
South-Eastern Asia	39	77
Western Asia	34	54
Oceania	12	26
Commonwealth of Independent States	12	51
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	36	55
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	4	49
Developed regions	22	57
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	13	78

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

	2000	*2005*
World	82	85
Developing regions	82	85
Northern Africa	88	82
Sub-Saharan Africa	72	76
Latin America and the Caribbean	81	79
Eastern Asia	94	94
Southern Asia	83	86
South-Eastern Asia	86	89
Western Asia	80	81
Oceania	76	75
Commonwealth of Independent States	76	66
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	78	75
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	68	59
Developed regions	76	73
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	85	83

Goal 7
Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 7.A
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Indicator 7.1
Proportion of land area covered by forest[a]
(Percentage)

	1990	*2000*	*2005*
World	31.3	30.6	30.3
Northern Africa	1.3	1.5	1.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	29.2	27.3	26.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	49.9	47.2	46.0
Caribbean	23.4	24.9	26.1
Latin America	50.3	47.5	46.3
Eastern Asia	16.5	18.1	19.8
Southern Asia	14.0	14.3	14.2
South-Eastern Asia	56.3	49.9	46.8
Western Asia	3.3	3.4	3.5
Oceania	68.3	65.0	63.4

	1990	2000	2005
Commonwealth of Independent States	38.6	38.7	38.6
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	3.9	3.9	3.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	46.6	46.7	46.7
Developed regions	30.4	30.7	30.8

[a] No new global or regional data are available; data presented are from 2006 report (A/61/1).

Indicator 7.2
Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)

(a) **Total**[a]

(Millions of metric tons)

	1990	1995	2000	2005[b]
World	21 345	22 188	23 605	27 661
Developed regions	10 812	11 063	11 650	12 026
Developing regions	6 695	8 596	9 614	13 096
Northern Africa	227	280	377	437
Sub-Saharan Africa	461	486	549	652
Latin America and the Caribbean	1 048	1 157	1 287	1 408
Eastern Asia	2 923	3 869	3 895	6 132
Southern Asia	989	1 307	1 651	2 044
South-Eastern Asia	419	674	808	1 183
Western Asia	622	817	1 039	1 229
Oceania	6	6	7	10
Commonwealth of Independent States[c]	3 181	2 354	2 132	2 293
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia[c]	481	347	327	391
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe[c]	2 700	2 007	1 805	1 902
Annex I countries[d,e]	11 638	11 872	12 594	13 007

(b) **Per capita**

(Metric tons)

	1990	1995	2000	2005[b]
World	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.3
Developed regions	11.8	11.5	11.8	11.9
Developing regions	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.5
Northern Africa	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5
Eastern Asia	2.4	3.0	2.9	4.4
Southern Asia	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.3
South-Eastern Asia	1.0	1.4	1.6	2.1
Western Asia	4.6	5.3	5.9	6.3
Oceania	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2
Commonwealth of Independent States[c]	11.2	8.3	7.6	8.2

	1990	1995	2000	2005[b]
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia[c]	7.1	5.0	4.6	5.3
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe[c]	12.5	9.3	8.6	9.3
Annex I countries[d,e]	12.0	11.8	12.2	12.2

(c) Per \$1 GDP (PPP)

(Kilograms)

	1990	1995	2000	2005[b]
World	0.48	0.55	0.50	0.49
Developed regions	0.47	0.45	0.40	0.38
Developing regions	0.65	0.64	0.59	0.62
Northern Africa	0.46	0.51	0.60	0.57
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.57	0.56	0.54	0.50
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.30
Eastern Asia	1.45	1.17	0.87	0.91
Southern Asia	0.59	0.62	0.61	0.55
South-Eastern Asia	0.41	0.45	0.48	0.55
Western Asia	0.56	0.60	0.66	0.63
Oceania	0.33	0.25	0.26	0.38
Commonwealth of Independent States[c]	1.48	1.49	1.25	0.97
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia[c]	2.28	2.16	1.68	1.30
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe[c]	1.40	1.42	1.20	0.93
Annex I countries[d,e]	0.51	0.48	0.43	0.40

[a]Total CO_2 emissions from fossil fuels include emissions from: solid fuel consumption, liquid fuel consumption and gas fuel consumption; cement production; and gas flaring (United States Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC)).
[b]Preliminary data.
[c]The 1990 column shows 1992 data.
[d]Based on the annual national emission inventories of annex I countries (with the exception of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which are included in Commonwealth of Independent States) which report to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; non-annex I countries do not have annual reporting obligations.
[e] Excluding emissions/removals from land use, land-use change and forestry.

Indicator 7.3
Consumption of ozone-depleting substances

(Tons of ozone depletion potential)

	1990	2000	2006
Developing regions	247 501	212 466	71 269
Northern Africa	6 203	8 129	2 586
Sub-Saharan Africa	23 449	9 561	2 425
Latin America and the Caribbean	76 048	31 087	11 527
Eastern Asia	103 217	105 762	38 040
Southern Asia	3 338	28 161	7 598

	1990	2000	2006
South-Eastern Asia	21 108	16 809	4 608
Western Asia	11 435	11 855	4 272
Oceania	47	129	14
Commonwealth of Independent States	139 454	27 585	1 494
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	2 738	928	193
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	136 716	26 657	1 301
Developed Regions[a]	826 801	24 060	10 528
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	6 239	966	373
Least developed countries	1 463	4 766	1 706
Landlocked developing countries	3 354	2 386	799
Small island developing States	7 162	2 125	1 043

[a]Including transition countries of South-Eastern Europe.

Indicator 7.4
Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2004
Total	81	72	75
Fully exploited	50	47	52
Under- and moderately exploited	31	25	23

Indicator 7.5
Proportion of total water resources used,[a] around 2000
(Percentage)

Developing regions	6.75
Northern Africa	76.60
Sub-Saharan Africa	2.16
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.44
Eastern Asia	21.87
Southern Asia	26.61
South-Eastern Asia	4.68
Western Asia	47.42
Oceania	0.02
Commonwealth of Independent States	5.62
Developed regions	9.10
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	11.10
Least developed countries	3.45
Landlocked developing countries	8.43
Small island developing States	1.23

[a] Surface water and groundwater withdrawal as a proportion of total actual renewable
water resources.

Target 7.B
Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
Indicator 7.6
Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected

(a)   Terrestrial and marine[a]

(Percentage)

	Excluding undated protected areas			Including undated protected areas (total)
	1990	*2000*	*2007*	
World[b]	6.0	8.6	9.9	12.4
Developing regions	6.1	9.6	11.3	13.0
Northern Africa	2.1	3.1	3.4	3.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	8.5	9.0	9.5	11.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.3	14.4	18.8	21.0
Eastern Asia	7.0	9.9	10.9	14.0
Southern Asia	4.3	5.1	5.4	5.6
South-Eastern Asia	2.6	5.3	6.0	7.5
Western Asia	3.7	17.8	17.8	17.9
Oceania	0.4	0.9	7.1	8.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	1.7	2.8	2.8	7.6
Developed regions	10.3	12.8	14.5	18.0
Least developed countries	7.5	8.3	9.5	10.8
Landlocked developing countries	8.1	10.6	10.7	11.5
Small island developing States	3.1	13.9	16.8	17.8

[a]Ratio of protected area (terrestrial and marine combined) to total territorial area. Differences between these figures and those of the statistical annex of the 2007 report of the Secretary-General (A/62/1) are due to the availability of new data and revised methodologies.
[b]Including territories that are not considered in the calculations of regional aggregates and of aggregates of developed and developing regions.

(b)   Terrestrial[a]

(Percentage)

	Excluding undated protected areas			Including undated protected areas (total)
	1990	*2000*	*2007*	
World	6.3	9.0	10.0	12.9
Developing regions	7.1	11.0	12.6	14.7
Northern Africa	2.1	3.1	3.4	3.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	9.1	9.6	10.1	12.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	8.2	15.5	20.2	22.7
Eastern Asia	7.4	10.5	11.5	14.7
Southern Asia	4.5	5.3	5.6	5.9
South-Eastern Asia	5.4	11.0	11.8	15.0

	Excluding undated protected areas			Including undated protected areas (total)
	1990	*2000*	*2007*	
Western Asia	4.0	19.1	19.1	19.2
Oceania	1.8	2.5	2.6	8.8
Commonwealth of Independent States	1.7	2.6	2.6	7.7
Developed regions	10.0	12.1	12.7	16.9
Least developed countries	8.3	9.2	9.6	11.1
Landlocked developing countries	8.1	10.6	10.7	11.6
Small island developing States	5.4	26.4	26.6	28.3

[a]Ratio of terrestrial protected area to total surface area.

(c) Marine[a]
(Percentage)

	Excluding undated protected areas			Including undated protected areas (total)
	1990	*2000*	*2007*	
World	3.9	6.4	9.6	9.8
Developing regions	0.6	2.2	4.3	4.5
Northern Africa	0.3	2.6	3.4	4.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.5	1.4	1.8	1.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.5	7.3	10.0	10.5
Eastern Asia	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
Southern Asia	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
South-Eastern Asia	0.3	0.7	1.3	1.5
Western Asia	0.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Oceania	0.1	0.6	8.1	8.1
Commonwealth of Independent States	2.3	5.6	5.6	5.9
Developed regions	11.9	16.6	23.5	23.5
Least developed countries	0.4	1.1	8.7	8.8
Landlocked developing countries[b]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Small island developing States	0.9	1.8	7.2	7.6

[a]Ratio of marine protected area to total territorial waters.
[b]Some landlocked developing countries have territorial water claims within inland seas.

Indicator 7.7
Proportion of species threatened with extinction[a]
(Percentage of species not expected to become extinct in the near future)

	1994	*2008*
World	92.19	91.86
Developed regions	93.50	93.10
Developing regions	92.54	92.20
Northern Africa	97.60	97.12
Sub-Saharan Africa	93.75	93.61

	1994	2008
Latin America and the Caribbean	93.10	92.96
Eastern Asia	96.16	95.78
Southern Asia	95.95	95.52
South-Eastern Asia	93.37	92.66
Western Asia	97.53	96.99
Oceania	91.86	91.41
Commonwealth of Independent States	96.36	95.71

[a]International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Index values for birds plus the number of non-Data Deficient species.

Target 7.C
Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicator 7.8
Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source
(Percentage)

	1990			2006		
	Total	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Total*	*Urban*	*Rural*
World	77	95	63	87	96	78
Developing regions	71	93	59	84	94	76
Northern Africa	88	95	82	92	96	87
Sub-Saharan Africa	49	82	35	58	81	46
Latin America and the Caribbean	84	94	61	92	97	73
Eastern Asia	68	97	55	88	98	81
Southern Asia	74	91	68	87	95	84
South-Eastern Asia	73	92	64	86	92	81
Western Asia	86	95	70	90	95	80
Oceania	51	92	39	50	91	37
Commonwealth of Independent States	93	97	84	94	99	86
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	87	95	80	88	98	79
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	95	98	87	97	99	91
Developed regions	98	100	95	99	100	97

Indicator 7.9
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility
(Percentage)

	1990			2006		
	Total	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Total*	*Urban*	*Rural*
World	54	78	36	62	79	45
Developing regions	41	66	28	53	71	39
Northern Africa	62	82	44	76	90	59
Sub-Saharan Africa	26	40	20	31	42	24

	1990			2006		
	Total	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Total*	*Urban*	*Rural*
Latin America and the Caribbean	68	81	35	79	86	52
Eastern Asia	48	61	43	65	74	59
Southern Asia	21	53	10	33	57	23
South-Eastern Asia	50	74	40	67	78	58
Western Asia	79	93	56	84	94	64
Oceania	52	80	44	52	80	43
Commonwealth of Independent States	90	95	81	89	94	81
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	95	97	93	93	95	92
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	89	94	77	88	94	75
Developed regions	99	100	96	99	100	96

Target 7.D
By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers

Indicator 7.10
Proportion of urban population living in slums[a,b]
(Percentage)

	1990	2001	2005
Developing regions	46.5	42.7	36.5
Northern Africa	37.7	28.2	14.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	72.3	71.9	62.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	35.4	31.9	27.0
Eastern Asia	41.1	36.4	36.5
Southern Asia	63.7	59.0	42.9
South-Eastern Asia	36.8	28.0	27.5
Western Asia	26.4	25.7	24.0
Oceania	24.5	24.1	24.1
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	30.3	29.4	29.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	6.0	6.0	6.0

[a]No new global or regional data are available; data presented are from the 2007 report (A/62/1).
[b]Represented by the urban population living in households with at least one of the four characteristics: lack of access to improved drinking water, lack of access to improved sanitation, overcrowding (three or more persons per room) and dwellings made of non-durable material.
The decrease in the percentage of populations living in slum conditions is mostly due to a change in the definition of adequate sanitation. In 2005, only a proportion of households using pit latrines were considered slum households, whereas in 1990 and 2001, all households using pit latrines had been counted as slum households. The change affects estimates mostly in those countries where the use of pit latrines is more widespread, such as those in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Goal 8
Develop a global partnership for development

Target 8.A
Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

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

Target 8.B
Address the special needs of the least developed countries

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

Target 8.C
Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)
Target 8.D
Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Official development assistance (ODA)
Indicator 8.1
Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as a percentage of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income

(a)   Annual total assistance[a]

(Billions of United States dollars)

	1993	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[b]
All developing countries	56.1	58.3	69.1	79.4	107.1	104.4	103.7
Least developed countries	14.0	15.9	22.6	23.5	24.6	29.4	—

[a]Including non-ODA debt forgiveness but excluding forgiveness of debt for military purposes.
[b]Preliminary data.

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

	1993	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[a]
All developing countries	0.30	0.23	0.25	0.26	0.33	0.31	0.28
Least developed countries	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	—

[a]Preliminary data.

Indicator 8.2
Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

	1997	2000	2002	2004	2006
Percentage	6.8	14.1	18.0	15.9	21.6
Billions of United States dollars	2.1	4.3	5.6	7.7	12.0

Indicator 8.3
Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied[a]

	1990	2003	2004	2005	2006
Percentage	67.6	91.8	91.3	92.3	94.5
Billions of United States dollars	16.3	30.1	30.8	48.9	53.8

[a]Based on only about 40 per cent of total ODA commitments from OECD/DAC countries, as it excludes technical cooperation and administrative costs, as well as all ODA from Austria, Luxembourg, New Zealand and the United States of America which do not report the tying status of their ODA.

Indicator 8.4
ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes

	1990	2003	2004	2005	2006
Percentage	6.4	8.0	7.9	7.0	6.3
Billions of United States dollars	6.9	11.8	13.8	14.7	16.1

Indicator 8.5
ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

	1990	2003	2004	2005	2006
Percentage	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7
Billions of United States dollars	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.5	2.5

Market access
Indicator 8.6
Proportion of total developed-country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty
(Percentage)

	1996	1998	2000	2003	2006[a]
(a) *Excluding arms*					
Developing countries	53	54	63	71	81
Least developed countries	68	81	75	81	89
(b) *Excluding arms and oil*					
Developing countries	54	54	65	71	77

	1996	1998	2000	2003	2006[a]
Least developed countries	78	78	70	78	79

[a] Preliminary data.

Indicator 8.7
Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries
(Percentage)

	1996	1998	2000	2003	2006
(a) *Agricultural goods*					
Developing countries	10.5	10.0	9.3	9.4	8.6
Least developed countries	4.0	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.8
(b) *Textiles*					
Developing countries	7.3	7.0	6.6	5.8	5.2
Least developed countries	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.2
(c) *Clothing*					
Developing countries	11.4	11.2	10.8	9.7	8.2
Least developed countries	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.0	6.4

Indicator 8.8
Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product

	1990	2003	2004	2005	2006[a]
Percentage	2.02	1.17	1.15	1.07	0.99
Billions of United States dollars	321	352	388	382	372

[a] Preliminary data.

Indicator 8.9
Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity[a]
(Percentage)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
World	3.3	3.2	3.6	2.5	3.0	3.2

[a] Trade-related technical assistance/capacity-building as a proportion of total sector-allocable ODA.

Debt sustainability
Indicator 8.10
Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

	2000[a]	2008[b]
Reached completion point	1	23
Reached decision point but not completion point	21	10

	2000[a]	2008[b]
Yet to be considered for decision point	13	8
Total eligible countries	**35**	**41**

[a]As of March 2001; including only countries that are heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) in 2008.
[b]As of June 2008.

Indicator 8.11
Debt relief committed under HIPC and Multilateral Debt Relief initiatives[a]
(Billions of United States dollars, cumulative)

	2000	2008
To countries that reached decision or completion point	28	69

[a]Expressed in end-2006 net present value terms; commitment status as of June 2008.

Indicator 8.12
Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services[a,b]

	1990	1995	2000	2006
Developing regions	18.6	14.3	12.5	6.6
Northern Africa	39.9	22.7	15.4	8.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	11.4	10.5	9.4	5.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	20.6	18.7	21.8	14.8
Eastern Asia	10.5	9.0	5.1	0.8
Southern Asia	17.7	26.9	13.7	4.4
South-Eastern Asia	16.7	7.9	6.5	5.6
Western Asia	24.2	18.4	14.2	12.5
Oceania	14.0	7.8	5.9	1.4
Commonwealth of Independent States	0.6[c]	6.1	8.1	7.3
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	0.6[c]	3.8	8.4	1.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	0.6[c]	6.2	8.1	8.2
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	9.4	11.7	11.8	5.7
Least developed countries	16.7	13.3	11.6	6.8

[a]Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services and net income from abroad.
[b]Including countries reporting to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System, Aggregates are based on available data and, for some years, might exclude countries that do not have data on exports of goods and services and net income from abroad.
[c]Data for 1993.

Target 8.E
In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

Indicator 8.13
Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis (no global or regional data are available)

Target 8.F
In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Indicator 8.14
Telephone lines[a] per 100 population

	1990	*2000*	*2006*
World	9.7	15.9	19.3
Developing regions	2.4	8.0	13.4
Northern Africa	2.9	7.5	11.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.0	1.4	1.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	6.3	14.7	17.5
Eastern Asia	1.9	13.0	28.3
Southern Asia	0.7	3.3	4.6
South-Eastern Asia	1.3	4.8	10.6
Western Asia	9.8	17.7	17.9
Oceania	3.4	5.4	5.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	12.4	18.5	24.9
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	7.9	8.9	11.1
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	13.9	21.8	30.0
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	13.5	21.7	23.0
Developed regions	42.9	55.3	49.9
Least developed countries	0.3	0.5	0.9
Landlocked developing countries	2.3	2.7	3.2
Small island developing States	7.1	12.6	12.4

[a]Fixed telephone lines.

Indicator 8.15
Cellular subscribers per 100 population

	1990	*2000*	*2006*
World	0.2	12.3	40.6
Developing regions	0.0	5.2	30.8
Northern Africa	—	2.9	42.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	—	1.8	17.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.0	12.2	54.4
Eastern Asia	0.0	8.7	36.5
Southern Asia	—	0.4	15.7
South-Eastern Asia	0.1	4.3	33.8
Western Asia	0.1	14.8	57.6
Oceania	0.0	2.5	9.4
Commonwealth of Independent States	0.0	1.8	81.1
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	0.0	1.3	23.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	0.0	2.0	102.3

	1990	2000	2006
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	0.0	11.3	81.0
Developed regions	1.1	47.9	92.2
Least developed countries	0.0	0.3	8.8
Landlocked developing countries	0.0	1.1	10.6
Small island developing States	0.2	10.1	35.9

Indicator 8.16
Internet users per 100 population

	1990	2000	2006
World	0.1	6.6	18.5
Developing regions	—	2.0	10.8
Northern Africa	0.0	0.8	10.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.0	0.5	3.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.0	3.9	18.7
Eastern Asia	—	3.3	12.5
Southern Asia	0.0	0.5	9.7
South-Eastern Asia	0.0	2.4	9.9
Western Asia	—	3.9	13.5
Oceania	0.0	1.9	5.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	0.0	1.4	16.4
Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia	0.0	0.5	6.0
Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe	0.0	1.7	20.2
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	0.0	3.9	44.2
Developed regions	0.3	29.5	58.4
Least developed countries	0.0	0.1	1.4
Landlocked developing countries	0.0	0.3	2.8
Small island developing States	0.0	4.8	15.8

Sources: United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and MDG Indicators Database (http://mdgs.un.org).

Notes: Except where indicated, regional groupings are based on United Nations geographical regions, with some modifications necessary to create, to the extent possible, homogeneous groups of countries for analysis and presentation. The regional composition adopted for 2008 reporting on MDG indicators is available at http://mdgs.un.org, under "Data".

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) comprises Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine in Europe, and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Asia.

Where shown, "Developed regions" comprises Europe (except CIS countries), Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America. In the tables, developed regions always include transition countries in Europe, unless the latter are presented separately as "Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe".

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter I (pp. 35–103)
International peace and security

The year 2008 brought new challenges for international peace and security, as the United Nations worked to address several conflict situations, mainly in Africa, and further incidents of international terrorism, while supporting the efforts of post-conflict countries to sustain peace and stability, rebuild national institutions, and restore economic development. The Security Council debated ways to strengthen collective security, stressing the importance of an effective multilateral system to better address global threats. It also reviewed UN assistance in helping States in conflict reform their security sector within the framework of the rule of law, and strengthening the Organization's role in mediation and settlement of disputes. The Council took measures to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs so as to make it more effective in supporting UN peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict. The Peacebuilding Commission enhanced its involvement in that regard by establishing a country-specific configuration for the Central African Republic, bringing to four the number of countries emerging from conflict under consideration by the Commission. The Commission also conducted biannual reviews of the Burundi and Sierra Leone configurations and conducted missions to Guinea-Bissau to assess that country's needs. During the year, the United Nations maintained 12 political and peacebuilding missions and offices.

The scale and frequency of international terrorist acts increased during the year, especially in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and reached countries previously untouched by the scourge. Concerned at the escalating situation, the Security Council, on 9 December, held a debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks around the world. The Council called upon all Member States to redouble efforts to tackle global terrorism by dedicating attention to bringing to justice the perpetrators, facilitators and masterminds of terrorist acts. The Council pledged to continue following developments in order to organize as efficiently as possible its efforts in combating terrorism, reaffirmed the importance of its resolutions and statements on terrorism, and stressed the need for implementing them. The Counter-Terrorism Committee reported significant progress by Member States in implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006.

The year marked the sixtieth anniversary of UN peacekeeping. The General Assembly, at a special commemorative session on 7 November to observe that event, adopted the Declaration on the Occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping, in which it paid tribute to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who, in the past 60 years, had served under the UN flag in more than 60 peacekeeping operations, and honoured the memory of more than 2,400 of them who had died in the cause of peace. To strengthen its peacekeeping capacity, the Organization considered strategies for conducting complex peacekeeping operations. It stepped up efforts to enhance the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, and considered a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General on conduct and discipline among UN peacekeeping personnel and initiatives to improve their welfare. A decrease of 64 per cent in allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel reflected the

Organization's concerted efforts to address that issue. At the end of 2008, there were 16 peacekeeping missions, served by 112,307 uniformed and civilian personnel.

Regarding the financial position of UN peacekeeping operations, expenditures increased by 21.7 per cent to $6,265.8 million for the 2007–2008 financial year, compared to $5,148.1 million for the previous reporting period; the increase was due mainly to the start-up of two missions and the rapid expansion of another.

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter II (pp. 104–331)
Africa

During 2008, the United Nations maintained its commitment to promoting peace, stability and development in Africa through six United Nations political and peacebuilding missions and seven peacekeeping operations. The Organization faced daunting challenges in helping the countries in conflict situations and those in transition to post-conflict peacebuilding in Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa return to peace, stability and prosperity. Many countries faced the complex task of bringing rebel groups into the peace process, concluding disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for ex-combatants, promoting national reconciliation and creating conditions for economic and social development.

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa brought a regional perspective to issues facing the continent, promoted conflict prevention and raised awareness about subregional problems. The United Nations worked closely with the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States and other regional organizations and international actors to assist Governments in improving security, ensuring humanitarian access, energizing peace processes and promoting development. The United Nations continued to monitor Security Council-sanctioned arms embargoes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Darfur region of western Sudan and Somalia.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission expanded its work to the Central African Republic in addition to its ongoing efforts in Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, where it assisted in electoral processes and facilitated dialogue. By October, 45 Member States had pledged $267 million to the Peacebuilding Fund.

A Security Council mission in June visited Djibouti (for Somalia affairs), the Sudan, Chad, the DRC and Côte d'Ivoire to promote peace and reconciliation.

Central Africa and the Great Lakes region continued to be affected by the activities of armed groups and militias, especially in the eastern part of the DRC. Nonetheless, by year's end, the region made noticeable steps towards resolving long-standing conflicts.

The signing in November 2007 of the Nairobi Communiqué by the DRC and Rwanda and, in January, of the *Actes d'engagement*—known as the Goma Agreements—by the DRC, the rebel Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP) and other armed groups from North and South Kivu in the eastern DRC laid the ground for finally eliminating the regional threat of—in particular foreign—armed groups active there through a separation of forces and their disarming and demobilization or brassage (integration into the national armed forces). Little progress, however, was made by the Mixed Technical Commission on Peace and Security of the Amani programme—the framework for implementing the Goma Agreements.

In August, violence flared in the eastern DRC, on the border with Rwanda, where 10,000 UN peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) were tasked with protecting 10 million civilians. Following a series of skirmishes, CNDP in late October began a major offensive threatening Goma (the provincial capital of North Kivu), and other ethnic-based rebel groups entered the fray. When CNDP overwhelmed the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo, displacing hundreds of thousands of civilians, MONUC reinforced its presence in Goma and surrounding areas. In November, the Security Council authorized an additional 3,085 troops and police for MONUC, including special forces, and increased air assets, so that it might better protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access. As the crisis threatened to spill beyond the borders of the DRC, the Secretary-General met with regional leaders at a special summit in Nairobi in November, also appointing a Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region to work with the parties and the international community to end the crisis. Following discussions with the Special Envoy, CNDP announced that it would withdraw its forces from the Kanyabayonga-Nyanzale and Kabasha-Kiwanja axes, where fighting had most recently occurred. Meanwhile, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which originated in Uganda, continued to operate in the DRC's Province Orientale, bordering the Sudan. At year's end, the Security Council extended MONUC's mandate by another 12 months.

Burundi continued to face serious peace and security challenges, primarily emanating from the stalled implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, enduring mistrust among political actors, increased restrictions on public liberties, slow progress in fighting impunity, persistent human rights violations, insecurity and high levels of poverty. The end of the year, however, brought a breakthrough in the peace process, when, at a Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region (Bujumbura, Burundi, 4 December), the Government of Burundi, the Palipehutu-FNL and attending Heads of State signed a declaration calling for the commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Palipehutu-FNL and the political integration of its leadership.

The political situation in the Central African Republic continued to be dominated by preparations for the inclusive political dialogue aimed at ending the recurrent political and security crises in the country—which was finally held in Bangui in December. The overall political, security and socio-economic situation, however, remained fragile, compounded by a weak economy, multifaceted social problems and impunity, with severe security challenges, particularly in the northern and south-eastern parts of the country.

Police and military liaison officers of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) worked with their counterparts of the European Union military operation (EUFOR) there to enhance stability and support human rights and the rule of law. The Mission focused on the training and deployment of the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité—the special Chadian police for maintaining law and order in refugee camps and among displaced civilians within a 10-kilometre radius of the camps in eastern Chad. In December, the Secretary-General recommended the concept of a United Nations force of at least 4,900 peacekeepers to take over from EUFOR in early 2009.

As for Uganda, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for LRA-affected areas worked to conclude the peace process. However, because the leader of LRA, Joseph Kony, did not sign the final peace agreement, the DRC, Southern Sudan and Uganda launched joint military action against his camps in the eastern DRC. Such military action was intended not to derail the peace process, but rather to pressure LRA into assembling in Ri-Kwangba (Southern Sudan) and signing the final peace agreement.

Welcoming recent steps towards the restoration of peace and stability in the Great Lakes region, the Security Council, in July, terminated several measures imposed in the wake of the 1994 Rwanda genocide to prohibit the sale and supply of arms and related materiel for use in that country. Nonetheless,

the border area between Rwanda and the DRC remained a matter of concern due to the violence that reignited in August in the eastern part of the DRC and continued through the following months.

In West Africa, the Secretary-General said that significant progress was made in the consolidation of peace and democratic governance, and UN peace missions in the subregion began to wind down. The United Nations Office for West Africa carried out its revised mandate, including supporting ECOWAS, which was demonstrating increased capacity to address political, social, economic and security issues in the region. However, many challenges remained, such as youth unemployment, rapid urbanization and irregular migration, while others were emerging or increasing in magnitude, including social and economic crises, human and drug trafficking and insecurity in the Sahelian band. Widespread corruption, which weakened State institutions and the rule of law, was a concern. Other threats to stability included the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the potential eruption of border conflicts, and organized crime, with drug trafficking constituting the most widespread cross-border activity. Furthermore, the scourge of coups d'état had re-emerged in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. Three high-level missions visited the subregion during the year to assess progress made and challenges facing countries of the subregion.

In Côte d'Ivoire, efforts continued to move the peace process forward through implementation of the 2007 Ouagadougou Agreement and its supplementary accords. The ceasefire monitored by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French Licorne forces continued to hold, with no major violations of the arms embargo. The partnership between President Laurent Gbagbo and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro remained strong, and the removal of the Green Line dividing the country allowed political leaders and the general population to move freely throughout the country. Although progress was made in preparations for the presidential elections, logistical and technical delays resulted in their postponement to 2009. A fourth supplementary accord to the Ouagadougou Agreement, which clarified issues relating to key processes that had stalled, was signed in December.

The Government of Liberia continued efforts to improve governance and security, combat corruption, regain control of the country's natural resources and build a stronger economy. With the assistance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and other organizations, further progress was made in consolidating peace, stability and democracy. The Government finalized its first national poverty reduction strategy, and Liberia reached the completion point under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission began public hearings in January and submitted its first report to the Legislature and President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in December. Following his visit to Liberia in April, the Secretary-General recommended adjustments to the second phase of the drawdown of the Mission.

The Government of Sierra Leone continued efforts to implement its agenda for peace consolidation and economic recovery. Developments included the approval of a national anti-corruption strategy and the submission of the Constitutional Review Commission report proposing amendments to the 1991 Constitution. The Secretary-General presented the completion strategy for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, which entailed the transition to a successor integrated political office—the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone. The transition resulted in the adoption of a Joint Vision of the United Nations Family for Sierra Leone. In December, President Ernest Bai Koroma issued his Agenda for Change, presenting the Government's priorities for the next three years, including the foundation for peacebuilding efforts.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone continued to try those bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international, humanitarian and Sierra Leonean laws committed in the territory since 1996. The trial of the former President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, resumed in January.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau assisted the Government in its efforts to promote national reconciliation, conduct legislative elections, and combat drug and human trafficking, and organized crime. The political climate remained fragile, despite the Government stability pact signed by the three main political parties in 2007. In July, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde withdrew from the pact. Political and institutional tensions over the National Assembly's mandate culminated in August with the appointment of a new Prime Minister and Government. Progress was achieved with the establishment of the National Reconciliation Commission and the National Commission for Human Rights. Nonetheless, instability in the military manifested itself in August, when the authorities uncovered a planned coup d'état, and in November, when unknown assailants attacked the residence of President João Bernardo Vieira, who escaped unharmed. The illicit drug trade remained a concern amid reports that Guinea-Bissau was becoming a strategic link in the transport of illegal narcotics from South America to Europe.

Cameroon and Nigeria continued to cooperate in implementing the 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice on their land and maritime boundary through the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission. During the year, the transfer of authority from Nigeria to Cameroon of the remaining zone of the Bakassi peninsula was completed.

Following the death of the President of Guinea, Lansana Conté, a military junta seized power in December. The coup was widely condemned internationally.

The democratic process in Mauritania suffered a setback in August, when the former Chief of Staff of the army seized power from President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi—the first democratically elected president in the history of the country—placing him under house arrest. The Security Council condemned the coup and demanded the immediate release of the President and the restoration of the legitimate, constitutional, democratic institutions.

The political situation in the Horn of Africa continued to be adversely affected by conflicts and other forms of insecurity within and between States. In the Sudan, the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) made uneven progress in de-escalating tension in the north-south border area and resuming implementation of the security arrangements set out in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In March, President Omar Al-Bashir of the Sudan and President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad signed the Dakar Agreement, by which the two countries committed themselves to ending their differences. In April, the Security Council renewed the UNMIS mandate for a further 12-month period. On 10 May, Justice and Equality Movement fighters from the Darfur region of the Sudan attacked Omdurman, Sudan, but were repelled by Sudanese Government forces. The Sudan accused Chad of supporting the attack and severed diplomatic ties. In May, tensions between the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in the town of Abyei erupted into full-scale fighting that continued until 20 May. Following several weeks of consultations, the parties finalized a road map agreement to resolve the situation in Abyei, and referred the dispute over the Abyei borders to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The electoral law was adopted by the National Assembly and signed by President Al-Bashir in July. That same month, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court requested that the Court issue an arrest warrant against President Al-Bashir on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Meanwhile, relations between Chad and the Sudan improved, and the two countries exchanged ambassadors in November.

In Northern Darfur, a status-of-forces agreement between the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the Sudan was signed on 9 February. Nevertheless, UNAMID deployment progressed slowly and faced significant challenges, including insufficient troops and equipment. In July, a UNAMID patrol was attacked in Darfur, resulting in the death of seven peacekeepers,

and a UNAMID officer was killed by unknown gunmen. The Government began a military campaign in September and engaged in further operations in October. Despite a unilateral declaration of a cessation of hostilities by the Government on 12 November, its forces conducted aerial bombings in Northern and Western Darfur during that month. Southern Darfur also experienced an upsurge in violence, as Government patrols were attacked. Inter-tribal fighting continued in Northern and Southern Darfur, and targeted attacks against humanitarian workers hindered the provision of assistance to the civilian population.

In Somalia, coordinated attacks by anti-Government elements took place in Mogadishu, and Ethiopian Army and Transitional Federal Government operations to eradicate those elements increased. In January, an integrated task force headed by the UN Department of Political Affairs deployed an assessment mission to Somalia to develop a comprehensive UN strategy for the country. The assessment outlined a three-track approach consisting of political, security and programmatic dimensions. The Department also led a fact-finding mission to the region in January to update contingency plans for the possible deployment of a UN peacekeeping mission. In March, the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia unveiled its reconciliation strategy, which included proposals to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation between the Government and opposition groups. In May, the Secretary-General's Special Representative initiated the first round of talks in Djibouti between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia. On 19 August, the Government and the Alliance signed the Djibouti agreement for the cessation of hostilities. The Somali parties signed an agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation during a third round of talks in Djibouti on 26 October. On the same date, the Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia adopted a declaration on the establishment of a unity Government.

Despite those developments, insurgent groups increased attacks on troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in April and May, resulting in the death of peacekeepers. The acting head of the United Nations Development Programme in Moga-dishu was killed by unidentified gunmen on 6 July. On 29 October, suicide bomb attacks targeted the UNDP compound in Hargeysa, as well as the town of Boosasso in northern Somalia; two UN staff members were killed and six others were injured. In June, the Security Council authorized States cooperating with the Transitional Federal Government to enter Somalia's territorial waters to repress acts of piracy and armed robbery.

The Organization's efforts to address the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea changed dramatically during the year. In January, the Secretary-General reported that Eritrea continued to induct troops into the Temporary Security Zone between the two countries and maintained its restrictions on the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). The Security Council extended the UNMEE mandate until 31 July, and demanded that Eritrea resume fuel shipments to the Mission or allow it to import fuel, which had been restricted since December 2007. In February, the Secretariat informed Eritrea of the decision to relocate Mission personnel to Ethiopia, and requested that it extend to the Mission the necessary cooperation. However, the Eritrean Defence Forces hindered the cross-border movement of personnel and equipment. The Secretary-General instructed UNMEE to begin relocating military personnel to their home countries pending a final decision by the Council on the Mission's future. The Council terminated the UNMEE mandate effective 31 July. No progress was made towards the construction of boundary pillars between the two countries in the manner foreseen by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission. The Commission reported that since it had concluded all administrative matters connected with the termination of its mandate, it considered itself *functus officio*.

On 11 June, Djibouti stated that Eritrean armed forces had launched unprovoked attacks on Djiboutian army positions the previous day. On 12 June, the Security Council condemned Eritrea's military aggression and called on the parties to commit to a ceasefire. A UN fact-finding mission that visited

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Djibouti in July and August established that a stalemate had developed between Djibouti and Eritrea that could only be resolved by diplomatic means. It recommended renewing as a matter of priority the Secretary-General's offer of good offices to defuse tensions.

The two parties to the dispute concerning the Territory of Western Sahara—Morocco and the Frente Polisario para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario)—met with the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara in January and March for the third and fourth rounds of talks, respectively. The parties remained far apart on ways to achieve a solution, but agreed to explore the establishment of family visits by land route, in addition to the programme of air visits, and reiterated their commitment to continue negotiations. In April, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 30 April 2009.

The United Nations also addressed the political and humanitarian crises that followed the elections of December 2007 in Kenya and the elections of March 2008 in Zimbabwe.

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter III (pp. 332–352)
Americas

During 2008, the United Nations continued to advance the cause of lasting peace, human rights, sustainable development and the rule of law in the Americas. In Guatemala, the newly established International Commission against Impunity continued to implement its mandate. In October, the Secretary-General provided the General Assembly with an update on the current state and activities of the Commission, and the UN role in the implementation of its mandate.

In Haiti, continuing challenges relating to the political and security situation hampered progress in the democratic process. In February, internal tensions between the Government and Parliament culminated in Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis' being summoned to appear before the Chamber of Deputies to respond to questions on the high cost of living, security, justice reform and the development of the country's agriculture. In April, six days of increasingly violent demonstrations in various parts of the country against the high cost of living and increasing cost of basic food commodities exemplified the potential for civil unrest. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) assisted the Haitian National Police in responding to the security crisis. Nonetheless, the disturbances subsequently led to a vote of censure against the Government of Prime Minister Alexis, which left Haiti without a fully functioning Government for over four months. In August and September, a series of hurricanes and storms struck Haiti, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation arising from the food insecurity crisis. Over 800,000 Haitians lost their homes or were directly affected by the disasters. The need to address the problems posed by the hurricanes helped resolve the political standoff and generated a new sense of solidarity. The confirmation process for a new Government was concluded in September and the new Prime Minister was sworn into office. Subsequently, the houses of Parliament passed a law allowing the President to declare a state of emergency and establish a system of flexible disbursement of national funds to assist affected populations.

MINUSTAH provided extensive support to the authorities and the UN country team to facilitate the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance and access by humanitarian personnel. The Mission also continued to support the training and institutional development of the police. In December, further progress was achieved with the adoption of a legislative agenda for 2009 and the issuance of a decree by the President, together with the new Prime Minister and members of her Government, setting the first and second rounds of the partial senatorial elections for 19 April and 7 June 2009.

In other developments in the region, the General Assembly again called on States to refrain from promulgating laws and measures such as the ongoing embargo against Cuba by the United States. The Assembly also considered activities undertaken by the United Nations to strengthen cooperation with the Caribbean Community.

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter IV (pp. 353–426)
Asia and the Pacific

In 2008, the United Nations continued to face significant political and security challenges in Asia and the Pacific, as it worked to restore peace and stability and to promote economic and social development in the region.

In Afghanistan, 2008 was the most violent year since 2001, with insurgents continuing their attempts at destabilization through sophisticated asymmetric attacks. Nevertheless, the capacity of the Afghan national army increased, relations with Pakistan improved, areas under opium cultivation were reduced by 19 per cent and nearly 2 million Afghans were peacefully registered for elections.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) coordinated international humanitarian and development assistance, fostered political dialogue and helped the Government build institutions. It reached out to the Afghan public, especially those who felt alienated from their Government but were not opposed to the Constitution or targeted by UN sanctions. In March, the Security Council extended UNAMA's mandate by another year.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a multinational force established by the Council in 2001, continued to assist the Government in maintaining security. In September, the Council extended ISAF's authorization until October 2009. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization maintained its role as lead command for ISAF.

In June, the Security Council adopted resolution 1817(2008) on the fight against illicit drugs in Afghanistan. In November, the General Assembly called upon the Government to continue addressing the threat posed by extremist groups and criminal violence, and urged donors to increase the proportion of assistance channelled directly to Afghanistan's core budget.

In Iraq, 2008 saw a decrease in security incidents and relative stability, even as United States troops deployed for the military surge were withdrawn. The multinational force progressively transferred security responsibilities to the Iraqi army. On 27 November, the Iraqi Council of Representatives approved a bilateral agreement placing United States forces under Iraq's authority and jurisdiction, with a timeline for their withdrawal from Iraq by December 2011. On 22 December, by resolution 1859(2008), the Council took note of the agreed expiration of the mandate of the multinational force on 31 December.

Despite a decrease in violent, high-visibility attacks by militias, insurgents and criminal gangs, indiscriminate attacks by roadside, car or suicide bombs were almost daily occurrences—often with women and occasionally children as suicide bombers. Iraq's efforts to meet internationally agreed

development targets, as set forth in the International Compact for Iraq, resulted in cancellation of its debt in December by the Paris Club.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) continued to advise the Government on developing civil and social services, foster human rights protection and legal reforms, and contribute to the coordination of development and reconstruction. In August, the Council extended UNAMI's mandate for another year.

The United Nations persisted in following up on issues relating to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait—including the repatriation of the remains of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, the return of Kuwaiti property and compensation for losses and damage.

The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) further assisted the country in reforming the security sector, strengthening the rule of law, promoting economic and social development and fostering democratic governance. On 11 February, an armed group led by the former military police commander of the armed forces, Alfredo Reinado, carried out separate attacks against President José Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão. The attacks resulted in the nearly fatal injury of the president and in the death of Mr. Reinado. Nonetheless, for the most part, the leaders and people of Timor-Leste made steady progress in all areas. The unresolved grievances of the 600 "petitioners" dismissed from the armed forces in 2006 were settled in August with the petitioners' acceptance of financial compensation to return to civilian life. The pace of closures of the internally displaced persons camps accelerated as a result of the Government-led National Recovery Strategy, supported by UNMIT; by December, most of the internally displaced had returned to their communities or had been resettled. UNMIT supported the rebuilding of the national police through training and institutional development. The certification process for the majority of police officers was completed in 2008, and preparations were made for a gradual resumption of responsibilities by the Timorese police. In the meantime, UNMIT continued to maintain a robust police presence across the country. The professionalism and internal stability of the national security and defence forces remained a concern, among widespread perceptions that they enjoyed impunity. That perception was further entrenched due to the 94 presidential pardons granted to convicted criminals in May, which, while legal, were considered by many as undermining efforts to promote accountability and to combat impunity.

In March, the Security Council imposed additional sanctions against Iran over its nuclear programme, including the inspection of cargo suspected of carrying prohibited goods, the tighter monitoring of financial institutions and the extension of travel bans and asset freezes. In September, the Council requested Iran to stop uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities and to cooperate with inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

A major accomplishment of UN peace operations in 2008 was the transition in Nepal, where a political mission, the United Nations Mission in Nepal, run by the Department of Political Affairs, helped the country hold nationwide Constituent Assembly elections, which effectively ended the civil war. After two postponements, the Nepalese people turned out in large numbers on 10 April to elect the Assembly, the most inclusive legislative body in the country's history. Following the election, the Assembly voted to abolish the 239-year-old monarchy. Nepal still faced many challenges, however, including the integration and rehabilitation of some 19,000 former combatants.

The Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Myanmar visited the country in March to encourage the authorities to promote democratization and national reconciliation. He met with senior Government ministers as well as with detained opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of her party, the National League for Democracy. On 2 May, Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, leaving more than 130,000 people dead or missing. The United Nations appealed for $187 million to help provide humanitarian relief, and called on the authorities to grant more access for delivering humanitarian aid to

the victims. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Myanmar in May and met Senior General Than Shwe, who agreed to allow international aid workers into the country, regardless of their nationality. By June, some 1.3 million people had received assistance. In July, the United Nations launched an appeal for $482 million. The Special Adviser visited the country in August, holding talks with the Planning and Health ministers, the Foreign Affairs Minister and senior Government members. In September, the Secretary-General welcomed the release of political prisoners. In November, he called for all political prisoners to be released and for all citizens to be allowed to participate freely in their country's political future.

During the year, the Secretary-General encouraged progress in the six-party talks aimed at the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In July and October, the Secretary-General urged Cambodia and Thailand to resolve diplomatically their border dispute.

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter V (pp. 427–474)
Europe and the Mediterranean

The restoration of peace and stability in the post-conflict countries of the European and Mediterranean region advanced in 2008, as efforts to re-establish their institutions and social and economic infrastructure continued. However, a number of issues remained unresolved, and in some countries the peace process was seriously challenged.

The international community, led by the European Union (EU), continued to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in moving towards full integration into Europe through the EU Stabilization and Association Process. The country in June signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU and was provided with a road map for visa liberalization. Nevertheless, nationalist rhetoric prevailed in the political scene as a result of a municipal election campaign and other developments in the region.

The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo continued to assist in building a modern, multiethnic society. In February, Kosovo declared independence, an act followed by boycotts by Kosovo Serbs and protests in many areas in Kosovo and Serbia. In light of developments, the United Nations Mission in June launched a reconfiguration process. In October, acting on a Serbian proposal, the General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on whether Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence was in accordance with international law.

Renewed efforts to end the stalemate in the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process were threatened in August by the war in South Ossetia and by the Georgian-Russian conflict. The recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia by the Russian Federation further increased tensions. Georgia withdrew from the 1994 Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (Moscow Agreement), and the Collective Peacekeeping Force of the Commonwealth of Independent States was officially terminated, substantially changing the context in which the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia operated.

No progress was made towards settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the occupied Nagorny Karabakh region in Azerbaijan. In March, acting on a proposal by Azerbaijan, the General Assembly called for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan.

The situation in Cyprus appeared to improve, and UN efforts focused on assisting the two sides in implementing the 8 July 2006 Agreement. Full-fledged negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides were launched in September under UN auspices. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus continued to cooperate with the two communities, facilitating projects benefiting Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the buffer zone and advancing the goal of restoring normal conditions and humanitarian functions on the island.

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter VI (pp. 475–557)
Middle East

The year 2008 was marked by a number of encouraging developments in the Middle East. Bilateral and multilateral efforts intensified to find a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within the framework set out at the 2007 Annapolis Conference. Nonetheless, the goal of a peaceful settlement of the conflict by the end of the year remained elusive, and the situation on the ground in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, remained difficult, hampering political efforts to achieve the vision of two States existing side by side in peace and security. In the Gaza Strip, in particular, prolonged violence and a deepening humanitarian crisis prevailed, complicated by the widening rift between the Palestinian factions in the Fatah-controlled West Bank and the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. As part of the recently intensified diplomatic efforts in the Middle East peace process, the good offices of the Secretary-General continued, as well as those of the Middle East Quartet (European Union, Russian Federation, United Nations, United States) to promote the road map initiative endorsed by the Security Council in 2003 and confirmed at Annapolis in 2007.

The year 2008 also marked 60 years of Palestinian dispossession. At a special meeting to commemorate that event, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) reiterated the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine until it was resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law, and urged the international community to continue its support for the Middle East peace process.

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories reported to the General Assembly on the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, working under increasingly difficult circumstances, continued to provide education, health and social services to over 4 million Palestinians living in and outside camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In Lebanon, marked progress was made in returning the country to stability and reconciliation. An agreement among Lebanese political leaders was reached on 21 May that led to the election of General Michel Sleiman as President of Lebanon, the formation of a Government of national unity and the launching of a national dialogue. Despite the improved political climate, however, the country's stability remained fragile and was threatened by a number of serious security incidents involving Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. Progress towards a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution between Israel and Lebanon remained elusive.

The United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission continued to investigate the 14 February 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 22 others. The Security Council extended the Commission's mandate until February 2009 to allow for a smooth transition and handover to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which was to begin its work in March 2009.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continued to cooperate closely with the Lebanese Armed Forces in consolidating the strategic military and security environment in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL's mandate was extended in August for another 12 months. Also during the year, the Security Council twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization continued to assist UNIFIL and UNDOF in their tasks.

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter VII (pp. 558–656)
Disarmament

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues remained in 2008 at the forefront of the international agenda, with the objective of moving towards a nuclear-weapons-free world. Advances towards that goal, however, were modest, as both the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission remained in deadlock. The Conference was unable to reach a consensus on a substantive programme of work, while the Commission concluded its three-year cycle without any consensus on recommendations concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. Meanwhile, the chronic pattern of deeply divided voting on nuclear resolutions in the General Assembly continued.

In other developments, the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) concluded in May, although it was unable to agree to attach the Chairman's factual summary to its report. The United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Missiles in All Its Aspects could not reach a consensus on measures to deal with that issue. Several States ratified and signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and a Joint Ministerial Statement was adopted at the Ministerial Meeting held in September, urging the Treaty's early entry into force.

Throughout the year, regional organizations continued to address disarmament and non-proliferation issues. With respect to nuclear-weapon-free zones, a significant advance came with the ratification of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty, paving the way for its entry into force in 2009. The verification programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency remained at the core of multilateral efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and move towards nuclear disarmament. Comprehensive safeguards agreements, concluded pursuant to NPT, and the Model Additional Protocols to

those agreements, which granted the Agency complementary inspection authority, remained the principal legal instruments upholding the Agency's safeguards regime. In 2008, safeguards were applied for 163 States with safeguards agreements in force. However, there was little progress on safeguard issues in Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, or on proliferation issues in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the Agency and concerned States worked to resolve remaining issues.

Other gains included the issuance by the Russian Federation and the United States of a Strategic Framework Declaration covering several areas of cooperation, including the intention to pursue legally binding arrangements to replace the expiring Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I). Australia and Japan established the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and nuclear disarmament proposals were put forward by the European Union and the United Kingdom. In October, the UN Secretary-General launched his five-point proposal for a world free of nuclear weapons.

A major highlight in the field of conventional arms was the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, a milestone in global efforts to ban such weapons, although member States of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons were unable to reach a consensus in addressing issues relating to the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions. Parties to that Convention held their ninth annual meeting in November. Also in November, the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty took place in Geneva, which resulted in the approval of requests by 15 States to extend the 10-year deadline for clearance and destruction of such mines.

Progress towards establishing an arms trade treaty gained momentum, with the convening of a Group of Governmental Experts to examine the feasibility and scope of a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The Group recommended further consideration of efforts within the United Nations to address the issue on a step-by-step basis. The General Assembly established an open-ended working group to implement that recommendation in 2009.

With respect to transparency measures, the number of States using the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures remained stable. While the number of States reporting data to the UN Register of Conventional Arms had dropped sharply in recent years, there was an increase in the number of States reporting on transfer of small arms and light weapons.

In April, the Security Council held a debate on small arms and light weapons, and in July, the General Assembly convened its third biennial meeting of States on the implementation of the programme of action to combat their illicit trade. For the first time, such a biennial meeting was able to adopt a substantive outcome document, one that identified a way forward for international cooperation; assistance and capacity-building to combat illicit brokering; management and surplus disposal; and marking and tracing. The Assembly agreed to convene another conference to review the implementation of the programme of action in 2012.

The Security Council in November held a high-level debate on the relationship between disarmament and development—another issue of long-standing interest at the United Nations.

Part One: Political and security questions
Chapter VIII (pp. 657–708)
Other political and security questions

GENERAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 657: Support for democracies, 657. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, 657: South Atlantic, 657. DECOLONIZATION, 658: Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 658; Puerto Rico, 670; Territories under review, 670; Other territorial issues, 684. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, 684: Implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations, 689; Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 689; Legal Subcommittee, 693. EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION, 694. INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 696. UN PUBLIC INFORMATION, 698.

In 2008, the United Nations continued to address political and security questions relating to its support for democratization worldwide, the promotion of decolonization, and the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the Organization's public information activities.

In February, the General Assembly received the text of the Bamako Consensus on "Democracy, Development and Poverty Reduction", adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in November 2007. Conference participants committed to the enhancement of democratic governance in all regions and to upholding the conclusions of previous Ministerial Conferences. They also decided to establish a permanent secretariat in Warsaw, Poland.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples continued to review progress in implementing the 1960 Declaration, particularly the exercise of self-determination by the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. During the year, the Special Committee organized a Pacific regional seminar in Bandung, Indonesia, as part of its efforts to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001–2010). Territories under review by the Special Committee included the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Tokelau and Western Sahara.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considered the implementation of the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and welcomed the link between the work on UNISPACE III and that of the Commission on Sustainable Development. There was progress in the implementation of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). The Committee set forth guidelines for selecting and setting up regional UN-SPIDER offices. In December, the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation held its fifty-sixth session in Vienna in July. It considered reports on sources of radiation exposure, the 1986 Chernobyl accident and effects on non-human biota.

In a December resolution on developments in information and telecommunications in the context of international security, the Assembly called on Member States to promote consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible measures to limit emerging threats.

The Committee on Information considered UN information policies and activities and reviewed the management and operation of the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). During the year, DPI

highlighted UN priority issues in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, and promoted the sixtieth anniversaries of United Nations peacekeeping and of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Part Two: Human Rights
Chapter I (pp. 711–760)
Promotion of human rights

Efforts to promote human rights were boosted in 2008 by several notable developments. The new machinery of the Human Rights Council, created in 2006, began working in earnest with the launch of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR). Under UPR, the Council examined the human rights record of 48 countries—the first step in reviewing the record of all Member States every four years. Several countries under review undertook firm commitments to better implement human rights, ratify human rights instruments and strengthen their cooperation with the Council's special procedures. Moreover, the Advisory Committee, established to provide expertise to the Council, held its first session and submitted 13 recommendations, while the Council's new complaint procedure, made up of the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations, addressed consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world. Human rights were also promoted through the work of the committees of experts (treaty bodies) monitoring compliance with the legally binding human rights instruments, as well as by the network of human rights defenders in individual countries operating within the framework of the 1998 Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. During the year, the Council held three regular sessions (seventh, eighth and ninth) and three special sessions (sixth, seventh and eighth).

On 10 December, the General Assembly held a plenary meeting to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On the same day, it adopted the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which established a procedure of individual communications for cases of alleged violations of economic, social and cultural rights. Also in December, the Assembly stressed the role of the Ombudsman, the mediator and other human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights. The year also marked the sixtieth anniversary of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol entered into force in May. In November, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, at its first session, elected the 12 members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—the body of independent experts to help monitor implementation of the Convention.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthened its country engagement and expanded its presence at the country and regional levels. It continued to support the work of the Council and its mechanisms, including the special procedures. In July, the Assembly approved the appointment by the Secretary-General of Navanethem Pillay (South Africa) to replace Louise Arbour (Canada) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 September.

Part Two: Human Rights
Chapter II (pp. 761–858)
Protection of human rights

In 2008, the United Nations continued to protect human rights worldwide through several mechanisms. Its main organs—the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council—remained actively engaged in protecting those rights. The Assembly's Human Rights Council carried out its task as the central United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It addressed human rights violations, worked to prevent abuses, provided overall policy guidance, monitored the observance of human rights around the world and assisted States in fulfilling their human rights obligations.

   The special procedures mandate-holders—special rapporteurs, working groups, independent experts and special representatives—monitored, examined, advised and publicly reported on human rights situations in specific countries or on major human rights violations worldwide. In 2008, 30 thematic mandate-holders reported on adequate housing, people of African descent, arbitrary detention, children and armed conflict, the sale of children, education, enforced or involuntary disappearances, extralegal executions, effects of foreign debt on human rights, extreme poverty, the right to food, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion or belief, physical and mental health, human rights defenders, independence of the judiciary, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, human rights and international solidarity, mercenaries, migrants, minority issues, racism and racial discrimination, slavery, human rights protection while countering terrorism, torture, the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, trafficking in persons, transnational corporations, and violence against women. During the year, mandate-holders sent 911 communications to 118 countries regarding 2,206 individuals; two thirds were joint communications sent by two or more mandates. They also conducted 53 fact-finding missions to 48 countries, issued 177 statements and press releases, and submitted 135 reports to the Human Rights Council (120 by thematic mandate-holders), including 79 annual reports and 56 country visit reports, and 19 reports to the General Assembly. In June, the Council created the mandate of the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

   In May, the Council held a special session to take action on the negative impact on the realization of the right to food of the worsening world food crisis, caused by soaring food prices, among other things.

   The rights of minorities continued to be a major focus. The Forum on Minority Issues, created by the Council in 2007, met for the first time in December under the guidance of the independent expert on minority issues. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed indigenous concerns relating to economic and social development, culture, education, the environment, health and human rights, and helped to coordinate related UN activities. The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

at its first session, discussed participation of indigenous peoples in its work, as well as issues related to discrimination and the rights of indigenous peoples to education.

Preparations continued for the Durban Review Conference, scheduled for 2009, whose objectives included a review of the progress made in implementing the 2001 Durban Programme of Action and an assessment of the effectiveness of mechanisms and instruments for tackling racial discrimination.

Part Two: Human Rights
Chapter III (pp. 859–898)
Human rights country situations

In 2008, human rights situations of concern in Member States, particularly regarding alleged violations and how best to assist and guide Governments and national institutions in combating them, were addressed by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and by special rapporteurs, the Secretary-General's special representatives and independent experts appointed to examine those situations.

In Myanmar, the human rights situation remained grave despite some improvements as a result of political developments, according to the Special Rapporteur. In February, a draft Constitution was finalized—the fourth step in the Government's seven-step road map to democracy—and a referendum on its adoption was held on 10 May. The lack of participation in the drafting process, the small degree of transparency, the limited public knowledge about its contents, and the conditions under which the referendum was held all raised concerns from a human rights perspective. In addition, a large number of opposition leaders remained in detention. The situation of the National League for Democracy General Secretary, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was a matter of concern as the Government, in May, extended her house arrest with no new evidence against her. In the wake of Cyclone Nargis, the Secretary-General visited Myanmar on 22 and 23 May. Following his discussions with Government officials, some access for international aid workers was granted. In June, the Human Rights Council called on the Government to implement commitments it had made to the Secretary-General on granting access by relief workers to those in need.

The protection of human rights in the Sudan remained challenging. There were continued violations of the freedoms of expression and association that were of particular concern as the country prepared for elections in 2009. Gross violations of human rights continued to be perpetrated in the Darfur region. The Special Rapporteur said that in general, the human rights situation remained grim and violations continued to be committed by all parties. Some progress had been made in implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and by July, the National Assembly had passed 59 new bills, including acts on the armed forces, criminal procedure, elections, the police and political parties. Overall, the human rights legal and institutional framework remained weak. In September, the Council acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the human rights legal and institutional framework, principally in law reform. It expressed concern at the overall human rights situation and called on the Government to accelerate implementation of the Agreement, to establish the remaining commissions, in particular the national human rights commission, and to intensify efforts for promoting and protecting human rights.

The Special Rapporteur reported that the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained grave in 2008. In addition to systematic human rights violations, the country was enduring an economic crisis characterized by rampant and chronic shortages of food. Civil and political rights were

severely constrained due to the repression imposed by the regime, coupled with intimidation and an extensive informant system, creating insecurity among the population. A new development during the year was the resumption of talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan on abducted Japanese nationals, aimed at reopening investigations on unresolved cases. The food shortages became more evident as the year progressed, with reports that millions of people were facing severe deprivations. A new agreement was reached between the authorities and the World Food Programme to assist 6.5 million people, whereby the Programme was granted access to households and warehouses that had previously been inaccessible.

The Human Rights Council held its sixth special session (23–24 January) on the human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and its eighth special session (28 November and 1 December) on the human rights situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Also during the year, the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported on the efforts of her Office to strengthen country engagements, especially through increased activities of field representatives as the main means for promoting human rights and reducing violations. The Council, its special procedures and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthened country engagements through advisory services, technical cooperation and monitoring activities as a means of advancing international human rights principles and preventing violations in several countries, including Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Sierra Leone, Somalia and the Sudan. For its part, the General Assembly took action on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Iran and Myanmar.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter I (pp. 901–956)
Development policy and international economic cooperation

In 2008, the global economy was on the brink of recession, due to the fallout from the financial crisis in the United States, the bursting of the housing bubbles there and in other large economies, soaring commodity prices, increasingly restrictive monetary policies in a number of countries, and stock market volatility. In December, the General Assembly called on countries to manage their macroeconomic and financial policies in ways that contributed to global stability, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and recognized that greater coherence was required among the macro-economic, trade, aid, financial, environmental and gender-equality policies to ensure that globalization worked as a positive force for all. The Assembly also reaffirmed the need to continue working towards a new international economic order based on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, cooperation and solidarity among all States.

During the year, the United Nations continued consideration of a number of development issues. The Economic and Social Council, at its high-level segment (30 June–3 July), discussed the promotion of an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development. As part of that segment, the Council held the first biennial Development Cooperation Forum, which discussed a new vision for development cooperation in the twenty-first century and its changing landscape and dynamics, and a high-level policy dialogue with the representatives of international financial and trade institutions on developments in the world economy. It also held its annual ministerial review on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development", and adopted a Ministerial Declaration on the theme. In August, the development needs of middle-income countries were considered at the third Ministerial Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries (MICs), held in Windhoek, Namibia. The Conference adopted the Windhoek Ministerial Declaration, which recognized the importance of reflecting the development needs of MICs in the outcomes of the international economic development processes.

The Commission on Sustainable Development reviewed progress in the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and implementation of Agenda 21, the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Commission's high-level segment discussed the theme "The way forward", which focused on investing in Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development, and interlinkages among the issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, including adaptation to climate change in the context of sustainable development.

The eradication of poverty and the achievement of the MDGs continued to be a major focus of attention. The Economic and Social Council reviewed implementation of its 2007 Ministerial

Declaration on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, and requested the UN system to adopt more comprehensive, coherent and multidimensional approaches in formulating its eradication policies, programmes and operations. During the year, the General Assembly decided that the theme for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, proclaimed in 2007, would be "Full employment and decent work for all", and requested the Secretary-General to appoint a focal point to coordinate implementation of the Decade. The Assembly also considered the legal empowerment of the poor on the basis of the final report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, entitled "Making the law work for everyone". It reaffirmed that the rule of law was essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and stressed the importance of sharing best national practices. The Assembly held a high-level event on the MDGs, the theme of which was "End poverty 2015: make it happen". The objective was to review progress and take stock of gaps at the midway point in the global effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015, identify actions and help ensure that the goals and international targets remained on track, and that the momentum was maintained beyond 2008. In that regard, the Secretary-General and the Assembly President proposed to hold an MDG Summit in 2010 to galvanize efforts and actions in the final five years before the 2015 deadline, and to convene an informal thematic debate on "Strengthening global health: the health MDGs and beyond".

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development considered as its priority themes development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society; and science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research. It also considered progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the first (2003) and second (2005) phases of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

The UN system continued to address the development problems of groups of countries in special situations. The Assembly decided to convene, in 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, as well as actions and initiatives needed. It also reviewed progress in the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action. The Assembly requested UN system agencies to intensify efforts for mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy in their work programmes. It conducted its midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, adopted in 2003 by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, and called on donors and the multilateral, regional, financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with technical and financial assistance for its implementation.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter II (pp. 957–990)
Operational activities for development

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTIVITIES, 957. TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 966: UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, 966; UNDP operational activities, 967; Financial and administrative matters, 975. OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 981: Development Account, 981; UN activities, 981; UN Office for Partnerships, 982; UN Office for Project Services, 983; UN Volunteers, 986; Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, 988; UN Capital Development Fund, 989.

In 2008, the United Nations system continued to provide development assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the central United Nations funding body for technical assistance. UNDP income reached $6 billion. Total expenditure for all programme activities and support costs in 2008 increased to $5.39 billion. Total income for the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) reached $50.1 million in 2008, including $6 million managed by UNCDF on behalf of UNDP. At year's end, United Nations Foundation allocations to projects of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships reached approximately $1.06 billion.

In April, the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system. In an August report, the Secretary-General analysed the implications of aligning the strategic planning cycles of the UN funds and programmes with the comprehensive policy review, and provided recommendations on changing the review from a three-year to a four-year cycle.

In September, the UNDP/United Nations Population Fund Executive Board approved the enhanced and integrated UNDP accountability system, which included an accountability framework and an oversight policy. It also amended the UNDP financial regulations and rules to enable the UNDP Administrator to make ex-gratia payments of up to $75,000 per year.

In 2008, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) delivered $1.06 billion through project implementation and spent $61.9 million administering it. The contribution to the operational reserve was $4.9 million, bringing it to $30.06 million. In September, the Executive Board approved a change to the UNOPS governance structure, realigning the functions and composition of its Management Coordination Committee to allow it to perform a policy advisory function; the body was renamed the Policy Advisory Committee to reflect its new role. At its September session, the Executive Board approved the revised UNOPS accountability framework and oversight policies. It also took note of the draft fourth cooperation framework for South-South Cooperation (2009–2011) and encouraged Member States to support UNDP and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in implementing the framework.

In 2008, 7,753 volunteers working for the UNDP-administered United Nations Volunteer programme carried out 7,991 assignments in 132 countries.

UNCDF achieved its programmatic targets in 2008, expanding its interventions to 38 least developed countries. During the year, UNDP and UNCDF met most of their objectives with respect to elaborating the UNCDF/UNDP partnership framework.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter III (pp. 991–1039)
Humanitarian and special economic assistance

In 2008, the United Nations, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), continued to mobilize and coordinate humanitarian assistance to respond to international emergencies. During the year, consolidated inter-agency and flash appeals were launched for Bolivia, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Madagascar, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, Southern Africa, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda, West Africa, Yemen and Zimbabwe. OCHA received contributions for natural disaster assistance totalling $1.4 billion.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Haiti continued to develop long-term programmes of support for those countries. Due to progress made in Guinea-Bissau, and following the corresponding Group's recommendation, the Economic and Social Council terminated that Group's mandate in July.

In other development activities, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting on Africa's development needs in September and adopted a political declaration on the topic.

In 2008, some 354 disasters associated with natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones and droughts, caused 235,264 deaths and affected approximately 214 million people. The cost of natural disasters was estimated at $190 billion in economic damages. The relative economic impact of disasters was greatest in low- and middle-income countries. Efforts continued to implement the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, the 10-year plan for reducing disaster risks, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005. Preparations were under way for the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled for 2009.

During the year, the Economic and Social Council considered ways to strengthen United Nations humanitarian assistance coordination by implementing improved humanitarian response at all levels. Implementation of the humanitarian reform agenda advanced with the launch of the cluster approach in five new sudden-onset emergencies.

The Central Emergency Response Fund continued to allow for the rapid provision of assistance to populations affected by sudden-onset disasters and underfunded emergencies.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter IV (pp. 1040–1100)
International trade, finance and transport

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round of trade negotiations stood at a critical juncture as negotiations entered the seventh year in 2008, when they were scheduled to conclude. The focus was on establishing full modalities for reducing commitments in agriculture and non-agricultural market access. In July, an informal WTO "mini-ministerial" meeting, convened to establish modalities on agriculture and non-agricultural market access, failed to achieve a breakthrough to set the basis for concluding the Doha Round in 2008.

From 20 to 25 April, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held its twelfth session (UNCTAD XII) in Accra, Ghana, under the theme "Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development". The Conference adopted the Accra Declaration, a political statement in which member States commended UNCTAD for its contribution to advancing the development agenda and supporting developing countries in addressing challenges and maximizing benefits from the globalized world economy. It also adopted the Accra Accord, which built upon the 2004 São Paulo Consensus, and provided updated policy analysis and responses, as well as guidelines for strengthening UNCTAD and enhancing its development role, impact and institutional effectiveness.

In April, the Economic and Social Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), WTO and UNCTAD under the theme "Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, including new challenges and emerging issues". The meeting identified new initiatives on financing for development, which it viewed as important for achieving the objectives of the Consensus. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus was held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December. The Conference had as its theme "Looking ahead: further cooperative actions in financing for development". It adopted the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in which States reaffirmed the Consensus. It also recognized that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of those resources were central to the global partnership for sustainable development and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). On 24 December, the General Assembly endorsed the Doha Declaration.

The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009*, jointly issued by UNCTAD and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, stated that the global financial crisis, coming on the heels of the food and energy security crises, would most likely set back progress towards poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs. Restoring confidence in financial markets in order to normalize credit flows remained of primary importance. In that regard, the General Assembly President convened, in October,

an Interactive Panel on the Global Financial Crisis to secure a more stable and sustainable global economic order, and welcomed the establishment of a High-level Task Force of Experts to undertake a comprehensive review of the international financial system. In 2008, developing countries continued to make increasing substantial net outward transfers of financial resources to developed countries, reaching an all-time high of $933 billion. Net transfers from countries with economies in transition increased to $171 billion, owing mainly to the strong increase in the trade surplus of the Russian Federation. In contrast, in Latin America and the Caribbean and East and South Asia, net outward transfers declined as a consequence of the financial turmoil, leading to a reduction in private capital flows from the third quarter of the year onwards.

Total contributions to UNCTAD voluntary trust funds amounted to $36.8 million, reflecting in nominal terms a 26.4 per cent increase over the previous year. Developed countries' contributions accounted for 58 per cent of the total, an increase of 30 per cent in nominal terms, while contributions from developing countries and economies in transition declined by 17 per cent and accounted for 21 per cent. Contributions from multilateral donors increased sharply, with the European Commission providing 14.5 per cent of the total, a 127 per cent increase, and the UN system providing 5 per cent. The private and public sectors provided 1.8 per cent.

At its fifty-fifth session in September, the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board adopted agreed conclusions on review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010; economic development in Africa: trade liberalization and export performance in Africa; and review of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities and their financing.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter V (pp. 1101–1135)
Regional economic and social activities

The five regional commissions continued in 2008 to provide technical cooperation, including advisory services, to their member States to promote programmes and projects and provide training to enhance national capacity-building in various sectors. Four of them—the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)—held regular sessions during the year. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) did not meet in 2008, but was scheduled to do so in 2009.

The Executive Secretaries of the commissions continued to meet periodically to exchange views and coordinate activities and positions on major development issues. In July, the Economic and Social Council held a dialogue with the Executive Secretaries on the theme "The regional dimension of the themes of the high-level segment for 2008".

In 2008, ECA organized its annual session as part of the first joint meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. At its March–April session, ECA met on the theme "Meeting Africa's New Development Challenges in the 21st Century", and adopted a ministerial statement in which Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to the AU New Partnership for Africa's Development programme as the shared framework for development and global partnership.

Meeting in April on the theme "Energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific", ESCAP adopted a resolution calling upon all members and associate members to cooperate in developing renewable energy technologies through the sharing of policy and technological experiences.

During its June session, ECLAC held a regional consultation in preparation for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, holding panel discussions on financing and cooperation, mobilization of domestic resources, systemic issues, and gender policies in financing for development. In addition, ECLAC approved the admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member.

At its May session, ESCWA reviewed financing for development in the region, in preparation for the Follow-up International Conference, and strengthening regional cooperation for achieving the MDGs. It launched a portal for information gathering and issued a report on the MDGs in the Arab region as at 2007. In July, the Economic and Social Council approved the admission of the Sudan as a member of ESCWA.

The regional commissions also found themselves dealing with the effects of the financial crisis that reached significant global proportions towards the end of the year. Within the context of their mandates, the Commissions began to consider what actions they might take to mitigate the effects of that crisis in their regions.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter VI (pp. 1136–1140)
Energy, natural resources and cartography

The conservation, development and use of energy and natural resources continued to be the focus of several UN bodies in 2008, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, which commenced its first two-year implementation cycle (2008–2009) on the thematic cluster: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

Recognizing the important role of energy in sustainable development, poverty eradication and achievement of internationally agreed development goals, the Commission, at its sixteenth session in May, discussed the need for new energy technologies, especially renewable energy; energy and industrial development; water services; demand for biofuels; and the improvement of access to energy, water and sanitation in the rural areas. The Commission also observed that despite progress being made with regard to energy for sustainable development, higher energy prices and climate change posed new challenges.

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in his annual address to the General Assembly in October, expressed his concern about the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the possibility of extremist groups having access to nuclear or radioactive material. He also noted that IAEA was at the nexus of development and security and had established effective partnerships with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Consequently, the use of radiation therapy for treating cancer had increased, higher-yielding food crops had been developed, and more people had access to clean drinking water. Some 439 nuclear power reactors were operating in 30 countries, and 36 new plants were under construction. The Director General cautioned that the primary responsibility for ensuring safety and security depended upon the countries concerned.

The issue of sanitation was the focus of World Water Day (22 March) and one of the main subjects of the *UN-Water Annual Report 2008*. The United Nations celebrated 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation, which emphasized that disease control and poverty eradication could not be achieved without sanitation, highlighting its importance for health, dignity, and sustainable social and economic development.

The Economic and Social Council recommended that the tenth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in 2012, and that the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be held in May 2009.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter VII (pp. 1141–1181)
Environment and human settlements

ENVIRONMENT, 1141: UN Environment Programme, 1141; Global Environment Facility, 1154; International conventions and mechanisms, 1154; Environmental activities, 1163. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 1175: Follow-up on the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 1175; UN Human Settlements Programme, 1179.

In 2008, the United Nations and the international community continued to work towards protecting the environment through legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The tenth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum discussed the emerging policy themes of globalization and the environment—mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge, and international environmental governance and UN reform. The Executive Director developed the UNEP Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013, which set out the vision and strategic direction for UNEP activities for that period. The Council authorized the Executive Director to use the Strategy in formulating the strategic frameworks and programmes of work and budgets for the 2010–2011 and 2012–2013 periods. In October, the Executive Director submitted the final review of the first UNEP long-term Tunza strategy (2003–2008) for engaging young people in environmental issues, and proposed a second long-term strategy (2009–2014).

In February, the General Assembly held a thematic debate on "Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work". The UNEP Governing Council invited the Economic and Social Council to consider a proposal for proclaiming an international decade for addressing climate change for the 2010–2020 period. In a decision on the sustainable development of the Arctic region, the Governing Council requested the Governments of Arctic States and other stakeholders to implement measures to facilitate adaptation to climate change, including by indigenous communities. The twenty-eighth session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, held in April in Budapest, Hungary, decided to produce a fifth assessment report on climate change, to be finalized in 2014. A global strategy was initiated to follow up on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which was completed in 2005.

In August, the Secretary-General recommended the establishment of the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund. The Fund would provide assistance and support to the States adversely affected by the oil slick that resulted from the destruction by Israel of oil storage tanks in Lebanon in 2006, following the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and the paramilitary group Hizbullah. The General Assembly established the Fund in December.

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which took place in May in Bonn, Germany, adopted a roadmap for negotiating an international regime for access to and sharing the benefits of genetic resources.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued to support the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. A new Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization merged two previous campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance, and addressed the adaptation and mitigation challenges of climate change. In December, the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives endorsed an action plan for implementing the 2008–2013 Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter VIII (pp. 1182–1196)
Population

In 2008, world population stood at 6.8 billion, and was projected to reach 9 billion in 2045 if fertility levels continued to decline in developing countries. While 53 developed countries had fertility below that needed to ensure the replacement of generations, 42 developing countries—many of them least developed—had total fertility above 4.0 children per woman. In addition, population was shifting. For the first time in history, there were more urban dwellers than rural inhabitants, and urban dwellers were likely to compose 70 per cent of the world population by 2050.

UN population activities continued to be guided by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the key actions for its implementation adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999. The Commission on Population and Development—the body responsible for monitoring, reviewing and assessing implementation of the Programme of Action—considered as its special theme "Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development". The Population Division continued to analyse and report on world demographic trends and policies and to make its findings available in publications and on the Internet.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) assisted countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and the Millennium Development Goals through their use of population data to formulate sound policies and programmes. In 2008, UNFPA provided assistance to 158 countries, areas and territories, with emphasis on increasing the availability and quality of reproductive health services, fighting gender discrimination and gender-based violence, formulating effective population policies and intensifying HIV prevention.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter IX (pp. 1197–1249)
Social policy, crime prevention and human resources development

SOCIAL POLICY AND CULTURAL ISSUES, 1197: Social development, 1197; Persons with disabilities, 1209; Cultural development, 1215. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 1222: Preparations for Twelfth (2010) United Nations Crime Congress, 1222; Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 1225; Crime prevention programme, 1226; Transnational organized crime, 1233; Strategies for crime prevention, 1238; UN standards and norms, 1243; Other crime prevention and criminal justice issues, 1244. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, 1245: Education for all, 1247; International years, 1248.

In 2008, the United Nations continued to promote social, cultural and human resources development, and to strengthen its crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

The Commission for Social Development, in February, again considered as its priority theme "Promoting full employment and decent work for all". It also reviewed UN plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups and discussed the issue of incorporating disability in the development agenda.

In December, the General Assembly—having considered the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, and further initiatives for social development adopted at its twenty-fourth (2000) special session—recognized the relevance of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, adopted by the International Labour Organization in June to promote an integrated approach to the decent work agenda and respond to the growing challenges of globalization. In July, the Economic and Social Council, following discussions on the promotion of full employment and decent work for all, reaffirmed the issue's central importance to poverty eradication and social integration and requested members of the UN system and financial institutions to integrate the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all in their policies, programmes and activities.

With regard to persons with disabilities, UN bodies continued to monitor the implementation of the 1982 World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the 1993 Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force on 3 May. In July, the Council renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development until 31 December 2011.

In the area of cultural development, the Assembly, in December, invited Member States to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, and, following a two-day high-level meeting on a culture of peace, affirmed that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constituted important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace. In other action, the Assembly urged States and the UN system to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives, and to promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda.

In April, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered, among other things, the preparations for the Twelfth (2010) United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; protection against trafficking in cultural property; strengthening prevention of urban crime; and international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products,

including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources. It also held a thematic discussion on aspects of violence against women.

The Assembly, in December, urged Governments to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, and encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Assembly also condemned corruption in all its forms and urged Governments to combat and penalize corruption and to enhance international cooperation.

As to human resources development, the Assembly recognized that a renewed collective commitment would be needed to meet the objectives of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012). It called on Member States to give literacy higher priority within their educational planning and budgeting, and to devise strategies for reaching groups disproportionately affected by illiteracy.

The Assembly proclaimed 2011 the International Year of Chemistry.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter X (pp. 1250–1282)
Women

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND BEIJING + 5, 1250: Critical areas of concern, 1255. UN MACHINERY, 1277: Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, 1277; Commission on the Status of Women, 1278; UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 1279; International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW), 1280.

In 2008, United Nations efforts to advance the status of women worldwide continued to be directed by the principles and guidelines of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third (2000) special session (Beijing+5), which reviewed progress in their implementation.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-second session in March, adopted conclusions on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, which the Economic and Social Council transmitted to the Assembly as input to the preparations for the follow-up international conference on financing for development. The Commission recommended to the Council for adoption a draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, which the Council adopted in July. The Council also took action on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all UN system policies and programmes. The Commission adopted and brought to the attention of the Council resolutions on women and children taken hostage in armed conflict; women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS; ending female genital mutilation; and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

The General Assembly adopted resolutions on eliminating violence against women; trafficking in women and girls; supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula; and the future operation of INSTRAW. The United Nations Development Fund for Women continued to focus on women's economic security and rights, ending violence against women, reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and advancing gender justice in democratic governance. The United Nations continued efforts to strengthen and revitalize INSTRAW. The Executive Board approved the Institute's strategic framework for 2008–2011.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter XI (pp. 1283–1302)
Children, youth and ageing persons

In 2008, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its work to ensure that every child received the best possible start in life; was fully immunized and protected from disease, including HIV/AIDS, and disability; had access to a quality primary school education; and was protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

Progress was achieved in realizing the commitments set out in "A world fit for children", the final document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, held in 2002. Many countries had incorporated the commitments into their planning by developing plans of action for children's issues.

UNICEF continued its focus on five areas for 2006–2009: young child survival and development; basic education and gender equality; HIV/AIDS and children; child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights. In 2008, UNICEF cooperated with 155 countries and responded to emergencies in 78 countries.

Progress and constraints with respect to the well-being of youth and their role in society were recorded in implementing the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The United Nations continued its action to implement the 2002 Madrid International Plan Action on Ageing. In February, the Commission for Social Development completed the first review and appraisal of the International Plan. In July, the Secretary-General provided the outline of a strategic implementation framework for the Plan. In December, the Assembly encouraged Governments to build capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons by integrating ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans. The Assembly also stressed the need for additional national capacity-building.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter XII (pp. 1303–1327)
Refugees and displaced persons

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1304: Programme policy, 1304; Financial and administrative questions, 1309. Refugee protection and assistance, 1312: Protection issues, 1312; Assistance measures, 1314; Regional activities, 1316.

In 2008, there were 34.4 million people of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including 10.5 million refugees. The number of identified stateless persons stood at 6.6 million and the number of stateless persons worldwide was estimated at 12 million. The number of people displaced remained high, at an estimated 26 million, with 14.4 million benefiting from UNHCR protection assistance. The latter figure constituted an increase of more than 600,000 compared to the previous year. More than 1.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) were able to go back to their places of origin, and more than 600,000 refugees were able to return to their homes.

During the year, UNHCR exercised its protection mandate more effectively in relation to statelessness, and progress was made in that area, with encouraging developments taking place in countries as diverse as Bangladesh, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates. UNHCR helped more than 150,000 refugees in Central Africa and the Great Lake region find a durable solution through voluntary repatriation and reintegration in their home countries, including 40,000 refugees who repatriated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 95,000 to Burundi and some 8,600 to Rwanda. UNHCR provided international protection and material assistance to some 676,000 refugees, of whom 68,300 were Congolese in camps in Burundi, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Office also protected and assisted 2,700 Burundians in Rwanda, 112,000 Angolans in the DRC, more than 8,500 refugees from Chad, the Sudan and the DRC in the Central African Republic (CAR) and some 81,000 refugees in Cameroon, of whom almost 63,000 were from the CAR. UNHCR led the efforts of the protection cluster to improve the safety and security of IDPs in the CAR and the DRC.

The volatile situations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, ongoing conflicts in the Darfur region of the Sudan and Colombia, and violence in Georgia, the DRC and Somalia continued to generate forced movements within and across borders. The continued conflict in Somalia caused massive displacement of populations, and the IDP population rose from 450,000 to approximately 1.1 million people. Clashes in Ethiopia's Ogaden region triggered the internal displacement of thousands of Ethiopians; there were some 200,000 conflict-induced IDPs, living mainly in Somali, Oromiya, Gambella and Tigray regional states. In Kenya, post-election violence that erupted in late 2007 led to the displacement of between 350,000 and 500,000 people to camps and host communities, especially in the Rift Valley.

Fighting between Government forces and irregular armed groups severely affected civilians in the north of the CAR, and the number of IDPs rose to 197,000. The total number of Central African refugees stood at 104,000. The situation in eastern Chad worsened markedly along the volatile border with Darfur. Cross-border movements of armed groups, mili-tia clashes, acts of banditry and general impunity affected the safety and security of 250,000 refugees from Darfur, 186,000 Chadian IDPs and the host communities. South Africa was hit by a wave of unprecedented xenophobic violence targeting Zimbabweans and other foreign nationals, which displaced up to 100,000 people.

Despite States' obligations to extend cooperation under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees [YUN 1951, p. 520], the Office was often denied access to detention centres to determine international protection needs. UNHCR also continued to face challenges in all aspects of beneficiary and staff safety.

In October, the Executive Committee adopted general conclusions on international protection, which called upon States to scrupulously respect the principle of non-refoulement. It also called on States to take steps to prevent acts of violence against refugees and other persons of concern.

In January, the African Union (AU) Executive Council adopted two decisions on the situation of refugees, returnees and IDPS in Africa. The Council called upon the international community to redouble its assistance to victims of forced displacement in Africa.

In December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/149 on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. The Assembly emphasized that States had the primary responsibility for the protection of, and assistance to, refugees on their territory. The Assembly also emphasized the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in cooperation with the international community.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter XIII (pp. 1328–1345)
Health, food and nutrition

HEALTH, 1329: AIDS prevention and control, 1329; Sickle-cell anaemia, 1332; Tobacco, 1333; Malaria, 1334; Global public health, 1338; Road safety, 1340. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 1341: Food aid, 1341; Food security, 1343. NUTRITION, 1344.

In 2008, the United Nations continued to promote human health and food security, coordinate food aid and support research in nutrition.

At the end of the year, about 33.4 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, and an estimated 2.7 million people had become infected with the virus. Deaths due to AIDS-related illnesses were estimated at 2 million. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) issued the 2008 *Report on the global AIDS epidemic*—the most comprehensive global assessment of the HIV/AIDS response ever assembled. The report confirmed that out of the 147 countries which had documented their progress in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, many had made considerable gains in addressing their national epidemics. Increases in financing for HIV programmes in low- and middle-income countries resulted in progress in reducing AIDS deaths and preventing new infections. In June, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting to review the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

In 2008, the United Nations focused on sickle-cell anaemia as a public health issue. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, some 100 million people carried the sickle-cell trait, and at least 500,000 children were born each year with the most severe form of the disease. Major disparities persisted between countries of the North and countries of the South with respect to management of the disease. In a December resolution, the General Assembly urged Member States and the UN system to promote health-care services, training and technology-transfer programmes to improve the lives of those affected, and to raise awareness of the disease on 19 June of each year.

The Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, at its third session in November, established a working group to develop guidelines for implementation of article 14, dealing with demand reduction. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products held its first and second sessions, at which it negotiated the objectives, scope and outline of a draft protocol. In May, the Secretary-General advised the United Nations to take a strong stance on the issue of second-hand smoke, and in a November resolution the General Assembly banned smoking and tobacco sales at UN Headquarters.

A WHO report to the General Assembly on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa (2001–2010) noted that at least 29 out of 109 countries around the world were on course to meet targets for reducing the burden caused by malaria by 2010. In February, the Secretary-General appointed Ray Chambers (United States) as his first Special Envoy for Malaria. The Assembly in a December resolution expressed concern about the continued morbidity and mortality attributed to malaria. It noted that more efforts were needed if the malaria and MDG targets for 2010 and 2015 were to be reached.

In May, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution urging Member States, international organizations and stakeholders to prioritize the implementation of a global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property. Also adopted were resolutions on monitoring the achievement of the health-related MDGs and implementation of the International Health Regulations.

The General Assembly debated the issue of global road safety in March. During the deliberations, the Russian Federation presented an initiative to host the first global high-level conference on road safety in 2009 in Moscow. In a related resolution, the Assembly commended WHO for working with the UN regional commissions to coordinate road safety issues in the UN system and the World Bank for establishing the Global Road Safety Facility—the first funding mechanism to support capacity-building for road safety.

In 2008, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 3.9 million metric tons of food aid, assisting 102.1 million hungry people in 78 countries. During the year, WFP faced challenges such as turmoil in international financial systems, extreme weather, political upheaval and complex emergencies in Afghanistan, Somalia and the Sudan. WFP succeeded in scaling up assistance to vulnerable populations hit by soaring food and fuel prices. The complexity of WFP emergency operations was exemplified by its response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, for which WFP provided $154 million of relief for 1.1 million victims. Donor contributions in 2008 reached a record $5 billion.

In 2008, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to address the world food crisis. In June, FAO held a high-level conference on "World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy". The conference adopted a Declaration that called on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and those most negatively affected by high food prices. In April, the Secretary-General established the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, which brought together relevant parts of the UN system and Bretton Woods institutions to produce a unified response to the food price crisis.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter XIV (pp. 1346–1378)
International drug control

FOLLOW-UP TO TWENTIETH SPECIAL SESSION, 1346. CONVENTIONS, 1352: International Narcotics Control Board, 1354. WORLD DRUG SITUATION, 1356. UN ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE, 1369: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 1369; Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 1371.

In 2008, the United Nations, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), continued to strengthen international cooperation in countering the world drug problem. Activities focused on carrying out the 1998 Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors; the 1998 Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development; and the 1999 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

UNODC provided technical assistance, legal advice and research to the main UN policymaking bodies in the field of drug control and assisted Member States in developing domestic legislation on drugs and in ratifying and implementing the international drug control conventions. It developed and promoted field-based technical cooperation projects with a view to enhancing the capacity of States to counteract illicit drugs, and supported States in illicit crop monitoring and alternative development programmes in the framework of poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies. It also expanded its initiatives to promote drug supply and demand reduction, and to prevent and treat drug abuse and dependence. States were assisted in improving border control practices and promoting the integration of drug control approaches and strategies into a broader development agenda.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the main UN policymaking body dealing with drug control—recommended two draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council for adoption and adopted resolutions on the follow-up to the General Assembly's twentieth (1998) special session on: countering the world drug problem; demand reduction and the prevention of drug abuse; HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases; illicit cultivation, manufacture and trafficking; West Africa; and Afghanistan.

INCB reviewed the origins of international drug control and how it had evolved in the twentieth century. It discussed the challenges facing the international community in applying the drug conventions, how Governments were responding to them and what action they might wish to take. It continued to oversee the implementation of the three major international drug control conventions, analyse the global drug situation and draw the attention of Governments to weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance, making suggestions and recommendations for improvements at the national and international levels.

In July, the Council emphasized that illicit production of narcotic drugs was often related to development problems—in particular poverty, poor health conditions and illiteracy—and should be tackled in a larger development context through a holistic and integrated approach. It agreed on the relevance of enhancing alternative development, focusing on improving people's livelihoods, and recognized the role played by developing countries with extensive expertise in those areas and the importance of outreach activities aimed at promoting best practices and lessons learned. In another July resolution, the Council noted that the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and production of opiates in Afghanistan had increased and that the bulk of the illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan were smuggled through Iran, Pakistan and other neighbouring countries before reaching their countries of destination.

The Council therefore encouraged cross-border cooperation, enhanced coordination and information exchange among Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, and called on States and UNODC to provide technical assistance and support for strengthening their initiatives and efforts to fight drug trafficking. In December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem that addressed the follow-up to the twentieth special session and action by the UN system. It recognized that countering the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility that should be dealt with through sustained and collective efforts, and reaffirmed the importance of a balanced approach between demand and supply reduction.

Part Three: Economic and social questions
Chapter XV (pp. 1379–1389)
Statistics

In 2008, the United Nations statistical work programme was conducted mainly through the activities of the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division. In February, the Commission adopted the *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008*, the *International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008* and part I of the *International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008*. It also adopted, in principle, volume 1 of the updated System of National Accounts as the international standard for national accounts statistics. The Commission welcomed the completion of the 2005 round of the International Comparison Programme and endorsed the Programme's continuation, with a target year of 2011 for the next round. The Commission also approved its multi-year programme of work for 2008–2011.

The Commission reviewed the work of groups of countries and international organizations in various areas of economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics and made specific recommendations and suggestions.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter I (pp. 1393–1405)
International Court of Justice

In 2008, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered three Judgments, made nine Orders, and had 17 contentious cases and one request for an advisory opinion pending before it. In a 30 October address to the General Assembly, the ICJ President, Judge Rosalyn Higgins, noted that the period from 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 marked the Court's most productive year in its history and that the cases decided during the previous year had involved States from every UN regional group. The universal character of the Court was also reflected in the wide range of subjects addressed in those cases, which included human rights, territorial sovereignty, mutual legal assistance, maritime delimitation, and the interpretation of an earlier Judgment.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter II (pp. 1406–1429)
International tribunals and court

In 2008 the international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, as well as the International Criminal Court (ICC), worked towards the completion of their mandates.

The International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (ICTY) took steps towards implementing its completion strategy, focusing on the most senior-level individuals accused of the most serious crimes. Only five cases remained to be started, four of which involved late arrests. The Tribunal was running seven trials simultaneously in its three courtrooms, involving 27 accused.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (ICTR) remained committed to meeting its completion strategy targets while respecting due process. By the end of the year, it had apprehended and detained 66 persons out of some 81 persons indicted, including the Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Rwanda during the genocide, 11 Ministers of that Government in 1994, senior military officials and members of the clergy. The Tribunal concluded all its multiple-accused cases, with one exception, involving some 14 accused persons. No new arrests could be reported for the 13 fugitives still at large as the end of the Tribunal's mandate drew near.

In July, during its fifth year of functioning, the ICC marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, which established the Court. It continued its proceedings with respect to situations of concern in four countries. At the end of July, there were seven warrants of arrest outstanding.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter III (pp. 1430–1481)
International legal questions

In 2008, the International Law Commission continued to examine topics relating to the progressive development and codification of international law. It adopted draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers, and provisionally adopted draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties. It adopted draft guidelines on reservations to treaties, and provisionally adopted eight draft articles on invocation of the international responsibility of an international organization. It established a Working Group to consider issues relating to the expulsion of aliens, and held debates on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, issues relating to the immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction, and aspects of the obligation to extradite or prosecute.

The Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly continued to elaborate a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In July, the Secretary-General reported on measures taken by States, UN system entities and intergovernmental organizations to implement the 1994 General Assembly Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. In December, the Assembly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable and called on States to adopt further measures to prevent terrorism.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law finalized and approved a draft text, which was adopted in December by the Assembly as the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea. It continued work on public procurement, arbitration and conciliation, insolvency law, and security interests, and considered future work in the areas of electronic commerce and commercial fraud. The Commission also welcomed initiatives undertaken to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1958 New York Convention on Foreign Arbitral Awards.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization continued to consider, among other items, proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in order to strengthen the Organization and the implementation of Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country addressed a number of issues raised by permanent missions to the United Nations, including transportation and parking matters, the security of missions and their personnel, delays in issuing visas and accelerating immigration and customs procedures.

Part Four: Legal questions
Chapter IV (pp. 1482–1512)
Law of the sea

UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, 1482: Institutions created by the Convention, 1494; Other developments related to the Convention, 1496; Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, 1511.

In 2008, the United Nations continued to promote universal acceptance of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its two implementing Agreements, on the implementation of Part XI of the Convention and on the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

The three institutions created by the Convention—the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf—held sessions during the year. In December, the General Assembly designated 8 June as World Oceans Day.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions
Chapter I (pp. 1515–1541)
United Nations restructuring and institutional matters

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

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

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

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

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

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions
Chapter II (pp. 1542–1565)
United Nations financing and programming

The financial situation of the United Nations showed some improvement in 2008, although it remained fragile. Cash availability under the regular budget was lower than in 2007 and stood at $19 million by year's end. Assessments stood at $1.8 billion—a decrease of some $174 million—and unpaid assessments totalled $417 million, compared to $428 million in 2007. Cash balances were higher for peacekeeping operations, the international tribunals and the capital master plan, while debt owed to Member States stood at $431 million. The number of Member States paying their regular budget assessments in full and on time increased to 146.

In December, the General Assembly adopted revised budget appropriations for the 2008–2009 biennium of $4,865,080,200 representing an increase of $657,471,800 over the revised appropriation of $4,207,608,400 approved in April. It invited the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed 2010–2011 programme budget on the basis of a preliminary estimate of $4,871,048,700.

The Committee on Contributions continued to review the methodology for preparing the scale of assessments of Member States' contributions to the budget and to encourage the payment of arrears through the multi-year payment plan process. The General Assembly continued to review the efficiency of United Nations administrative and financial functioning.

The General Assembly also examined the proposed strategic framework for 2010–2011 and endorsed the proposed biennial programme plan for that period.

Part Five: Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions
Chapter III (pp. 1566–1648)
Administrative and staff matters

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, 1567: Managerial reform and oversight, 1567. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, 1580: Conference management, 1580; UN information systems, 1589; UN premises and property, 1597. STAFF MATTERS, 1601: Conditions of service, 1601; Staff safety and security, 1610; Other staff matters, 1614; UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, 1632; Travel-related matters, 1635; Administration of justice, 1635.

During 2008, the General Assembly continued to review the administrative functioning of the Organization and matters related to United Nations staff, including new reform proposals.

The Organization strengthened its oversight of UN activities through the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), particularly the OIOS Procurement Task Force and its Independent Audit Advisory Committee, as well as through the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). As a result of the work of the Procurement Task Force, established to address fraud and corruption, some 22 vendors were sanctioned by the Administration. Since its formation, the Task Force had completed 222 investigations and identified more than 20 significant fraud and corruption schemes.

The Independent Audit Advisory Committee, established in 2006 to serve in an expert advisory capacity and to assist the General Assembly in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, became operational on 1 January and issued its first annual report.

In April, the Secretary-General presented his information and communications technology strategy for the UN Secretariat over the next three to five years. In December, the General Assembly established the Office of Information and Communications Technology.

The General Assembly approved the governance framework for the implementation of an enterprise resource planning system for the UN Secretariat and its worldwide offices. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on: the report of OIOS on its activities; strengthening investigations; the report on the work of JIU for 2007 and programme of work for 2008; the pattern of conferences; security, disaster recovery and business continuity; and the need to harmonize and improve UN informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States.

Regarding security issues, the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of a system-wide policy on the safety and security of UN staff and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that UN and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of UN mandated operations were properly informed about, and operated in conformity with, relevant codes of conduct. It also emphasized the need to pay special attention to the safety and security of UN and associated personnel engaged in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, and in particular to locally recruited humanitarian personnel.

During the year, the Assembly, through the International Civil Service Commission, continued to review the conditions of service of staff of the UN common system, and adopted the Commission's recommendations relating to the mobility and hardship allowance; post adjustment; education grant; conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories; base/floor salary scale; and methodology and level of children's and secondary dependant's allowance.

The General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposals for streamlining UN contractual arrangements and harmonizing conditions of service, effective 1 July 2009. Under the proposed system, a

single series of staff rules would provide for one UN staff contract, encompassing three types of appointments: temporary, fixed-term, and continuing.

The Secretary-General also reported on: the conditions of service and compensation of members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunals; safety and security of humanitarian and UN personnel; contractual arrangements and harmonization of conditions of service; civilian career peacekeepers; recruitment and staffing; activities of the Ethics Office; amendments to the Staff Regulations; multilingualism; staff mobility; and staff composition of the Secretariat.

In addition, the Secretary-General reported on: gratis personnel; employment of retirees; consultants and individual contractors; measures to improve the balance in the geographical distribution of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; reform of human resources management; national competitive recruitment examinations; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; travel and related matters; and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

As part of the implementation of the new system of administration of justice in the Secretariat, the Assembly adopted the statutes of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, to be operational as at 1 July 2009. It also examined and took action on the Secretary-General's reports on the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman; criminal behaviour and disciplinary action; and criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission.