In 2002, the United Nations, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), continued to mobilize and coordinate humanitarian assistance to respond to the world’s most pressing emergencies. During the year, consolidated inter-agency appeals were launched for Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the northern Caucasus, the Congo, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, Guinea, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South-Eastern Europe, the Southern Africa region, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Uganda, West Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The appeals sought $4.4 billion to assist about 45 million beneficiaries. Some $2.9 billion was received, meeting 66.3 per cent of requirements. OCHA also mobilized and coordinated assistance in the amount of $263 million for 67 natural disasters.

The final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was conducted in 2002. The Assembly decided to bring the New Agenda to a close and endorsed the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, the region’s own development initiative, adopted in 2001 by the Organization of African Unity. At a high-level plenary meeting in September, the Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development.

The Economic and Social Council decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, an ad hoc advisory group to elaborate long-term programmes of support. It established such a group on Guinea-Bissau.

Humanitarian assistance

Coordination

Humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council

The humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council (15-17 and 26 July) had as its theme “Strengthening of the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance in cases of natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies, with particular attention to reaching the vulnerable and the transition from relief to development” (decision 2002/212 of 30 April). Panel discussions were held on the subject.

The Council considered a May report of the Secretary-General [A/57/77-E/2002/63] on strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance, submitted in response to General Assembly resolutions 46/182 [YUN 1991, p. 421] and 56/107 [YUN 2001, p. 825] and to Council resolution 1995/56 [YUN 1995, p. 927]. The report analysed the causes and effects of humanitarian emergencies, highlighting the regional repercussions of humanitarian crises and the coordination mechanisms and tools adopted by the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to address them. UN bodies strengthened their regional presence in many areas that were vulnerable to crises and continued to strengthen regional response and local capacity-building for natural disasters. Regarding improved contingency planning, the Inter-Agency Reference Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning had strengthened its guidelines, which had been incorporated into the planning processes for a number of countries to allow better planning of regional stocks, and the identification of key facilities that could release resources in case of disasters and of areas where national and local capacity should be strengthened. Natural disaster preparedness and response tools were enhanced through efforts to recruit additional members for UN disaster assessment and coordination teams; the preparation of guidelines by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group; the establishment of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)–approved United Nations Joint Logistics Centre (operated by the World Food Programme (WFP)) and of humanitarian information centres; and the activities of the joint Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Unit (see p. 1059) to integrate and coordinate responses to environmental emergencies.

The report considered the challenges to and opportunities for reaching vulnerable popula-
tions in situations of armed conflict or widespread violence and during natural disasters. The establishment of a culture of protection, a broad umbrella concept that embraced a range of interconnected issues, required action across a wide range of areas, including access, justice and reconciliation; the special needs and vulnerabilities of refugees, internally displaced persons, women and children; the safety of UN personnel; the illicit exploitation of natural resources; the proliferation and trafficking in small arms; and the possible humanitarian impact of sanctions and landmines. IASC, under the chairmanship of the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), held consultations within the system and with Member States and other interested parties to ensure that enhancing the culture of protection was based on coordinated efforts. Initiatives to transform into action the Secretary-General’s recommendations and Security Council resolutions on the protection of civilians included the development of an aide-memoire, adopted by the Council in presidential statement S/PRST/2002/6 (see p. 692); closer cooperation and coordination between the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and OCHA on the protection of civilians, including the adoption by DPKO and OCHA of standing operating procedures on those issues; and a reorganization of the Secretary-General’s recommendations into a “road map” that would help assign responsibilities, in collaboration with the Security Council. Round-table consultations on how to implement measures to protect civilians, which had already gathered the views of Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions, would be continued and developed. The report described measures taken regarding the particular needs of internally displaced persons, women, children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities. In that regard, IASC established a Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises, and the ERC established an inter-agency Unit on Internal Displacement, which became functional in January 2002.

As to the transition from relief to development, the report emphasized the importance of early, integrated planning and the need to ensure that transitional programmes contributed to reducing the risk and impact of future natural hazards.

In response to a request of Member States, the ERC commissioned an independent review of the consolidated appeals process to focus on the key strengths and weaknesses of the process as a resource mobilization mechanism and a coordination and strategic planning tool. The review, which was the latest in a series of efforts to strengthen and improve that mechanism, noted a steady decline in the proportion of humanitarian assistance channelled through it. Much of the assistance had been redirected towards NGOs. Overall levels of humanitarian funding had remained static in real terms, which had resulted in a decline in the resources available in proportion to the increased levels of need. Consolidated appeals for countries in the process of transition from relief to development had been the least funded. The value of the consolidated appeals process as a coordination mechanism was limited by the fact that it did not represent the totality of humanitarian spending or trends in humanitarian funding. The review concluded that there was an urgent need for increased humanitarian funding and indicated that the preparation, launch and follow-up of the consolidated appeals process were not accompanied by a coherent advocacy and public information strategy. Member States were urged to support a more comprehensive system for financial analysis and information, while more coherent and forceful advocacy efforts were needed to achieve greater buy-in to the process by NGOs, donors, recipient Governments and other parties.

The Secretary-General made a series of recommendations to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council regarding the need to enhance regional capacities to respond to humanitarian emergencies, promote a culture of protection and adequately plan for the transition from relief to development. Recommendations on the consolidated appeals process focused on the need to strengthen humanitarian strategies and resource mobilization efforts, with increased support from donors and NGOs.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 26 July [meeting 41], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2002/32 [draft: E/2002/L.34] without vote [agenda item 5].

**Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

**Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, and recalling that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution, and also recalling other relevant Assembly resolutions,**

**Recalling its agreed conclusions 1998/1 of 17 July 1998 and 1999/1 of 23 July 1999,**

**Emphasizing the importance of the discussion of humanitarian policies and activities in the Economic and Social Council,**

**Reaffirming the need for the Council to continue to consider ways to enhance further the humanitarian**
1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,

2. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the capacities of and consult with, where appropriate, regional and subregional organizations so as to respond to complex humanitarian crises and natural disasters and to report to the Economic and Social Council on practical steps taken in this regard;

3. Welcomes the efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen their coordination and regional activities so as to provide more effective support to disaster-prone countries, and, to this end, calls on them, and other relief organizations and institutions, to identify innovative ways to support those countries in building and, where necessary, strengthening local, national and regional capacities in disaster prevention, mitigation and management;

4. Recalls the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to expand participation in United Nations disaster assessment and coordination teams and encourages the further participation of United Nations organizations in United Nations disaster assessment coordination;

5. Stresses the need to address the funding and strategic planning gap between relief and development activities in the context of natural disasters and complex emergencies,

6. Welcomes the efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to continue to examine in greater depth the reasons for and implications of this,

7. Noting with concern that, while the consolidated appeals process remains one of the most significant mechanisms for humanitarian resource mobilization, it has suffered consistent shortfalls and, in this regard, encouraging the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to continue to examine in greater depth the reasons for and implications of this,

8. Taking note of the assessment by the Secretary-General regarding criminal activities in the context of complex emergencies in pursuit of economic gain including, inter alia, illicit use by armed groups of natural resources and trafficking of women and children, and expressing concern over their impact on humanitarian assistance in such emergencies,

9. Bearing in mind that reaching the vulnerable is essential for providing adequate protection and assistance in contexts of natural disasters and complex emergencies as well as for strengthening local capacity to cope with humanitarian needs in such contexts,

10. Welcoming the Inter-Agency Standing Committee policy statement on the integration of a gender perspective in humanitarian affairs and stressing the importance of its effective implementation,

11. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;
ment Assistance Frameworks in order to facilitate the transition from relief to development and better to reflect disaster risk management;

13. Requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, other members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, affected countries and other partners concerned to ensure that consolidated appeals contain adequate plans to align relief and transitional programmes, inter alia, in the area of resource mobilization;

14. Takes note of its decision to consider creating ad hoc advisory groups to examine the humanitarian and economic needs of African countries emerging from conflict, and encourages relevant parts of the United Nations system, including existing coordination structures and mechanisms, to cooperate with such ad hoc advisory groups;

15. Encourages further strengthening of the consolidated appeals process as a coordination and strategic planning tool and urges donors to contribute to this objective and to address priority needs identified through the process, and also urges affected countries to reflect these priorities in their national efforts;

16. Supports the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to engage in a dialogue with other humanitarian actors, including non-governmental organizations, on strengthening their involvement in the development of common humanitarian action plans and consolidated appeals, and encourages them to contribute actively to their implementation;

17. Calls upon United Nations organizations to continue to improve needs-assessment methodologies in the consolidated appeals process and to strengthen efforts to report on results;

18. Encourages donors to ensure that financing of high-profile emergencies does not come at the expense of low-profile emergency appeals, inter alia, by making efforts to increase the overall levels of humanitarian assistance;

19. Welcomes the initiative of donors to meet and consider the global trend in humanitarian response to ensure that imbalances can be addressed when consolidated appeals are launched;

20. Encourages the development of a global humanitarian financial tracking system in order to contribute to improved coordination and accountability, and requests the Emergency Relief Coordinator to make proposals, without delay, for a comprehensive system for the collection and dissemination of data on humanitarian needs and contributions;

21. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

22. Calls upon all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

23. Reaffirms the obligation of Member States to protect civilians in armed conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites them to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

24. Urges the international community and the United Nations system to strengthen their humanitarian and other assistance to civilians under foreign occupation;

25. Encourages efforts to provide education during and after humanitarian emergencies in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

26. Invites Member States and other partners, as appropriate, to participate actively in workshops on the protection of civilians in order to impart knowledge and improve practice based on shared experiences;

27. Encourages Governments, the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to share experiences and lessons they may have learned with regard to the development of criteria and procedures for the identification of armed elements and their separation from the civilian population in situations of complex emergencies, and urges Governments and relevant United Nations bodies to strengthen measures in this regard;

28. Notes with appreciation the establishment of the non-operational inter-agency Unit on Internal Displacement in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and encourages Member States and relevant agencies to provide it with the necessary resources to enable it to carry out its activities;

29. Notes that an increasing number of States, United Nations organizations and regional and non-governmental organizations are making use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, encourages the strengthening of legal frameworks on the protection of internally displaced persons, and urges the international community to strengthen its support to affected States in their efforts to provide, through national plans or initiatives, protection and assistance to their internally displaced persons;

30. Strongly urges the United Nations system and all humanitarian organizations to adopt and implement appropriate measures, including codes of conduct, for all personnel involved in humanitarian assistance activities, to review protection and distribution mechanisms and to recommend actions that protect against sexual abuse and exploitation and the misuse of humanitarian assistance, and requests the Secretary-General to report back to the Council in this regard;

31. Welcomes efforts to strengthen international urban search and rescue operations through, inter alia, activities of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group;

32. Requests the Secretary-General to continue progress on the directories referred to in General Assembly resolution 56/105 of 14 December 2001;

33. Also requests the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Council and the General Assembly on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.
On 16 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/153 [draft: A/57/L.64 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (a)].

**Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note also of the note by the Secretary-General on the relevant organizations of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, submitted pursuant to resolution 56/107 of 14 December 2000,

Stressing the need to address further the issues of funding, coordination and the functioning and the mobilization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, submitted pursuant to resolution 56/107 of 14 December 2000,

Deeply concerned about the aggravating effects that major diseases, in particular the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, cause in the context of natural disasters and complex emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to development activities,

Concerned at the need to mobilize adequate levels of financing for emergency humanitarian assistance,

Noting with interest the efforts of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to develop the Plan of Action on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, with the facilitation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and in cooperation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, and recalling its resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002, entitled “Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance”,

1. Welcomes the outcome of the fifth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council during its substantive session of 2002;

2. Also welcomes the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

3. Emphasizes the importance of the discussion of humanitarian policies and activities in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

4. Calls upon relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to ensure timely implementation of and follow-up to resolutions and agreed conclusions of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council;

5. Invites the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider ways to enhance further the humanitarian affairs segment of the future sessions of the Council, including through the adoption of negotiated outcomes of its deliberations;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform Governments regularly about the use of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the utilization of the Fund;

7. Calls upon the relevant humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions, Governments and non-governmental organizations to review and work towards greater alignment of their planning and resource mobilization tools so as to facilitate the transition from relief to development, and to report to the Secretary-General on actions taken in this respect;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to address, as appropriate and in collaboration with relevant actors, in particular the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, ways and means of strengthening the humanitarian response and for the mobilization of greater resources in connection with emergency humanitarian assistance in areas with a high prevalence of major diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, taking into account the impacts of major diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, on vulnerable communities and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and to report on actions taken in this respect;

9. Stresses the importance of the timely implementation of the Plan of Action on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and urges the Standing Committee to continue to refine the Plan and follow-up activities consistent with experience gained at the field level;

10. Commends the Emergency Relief Coordinator and his staff for their activities in emergency information management, and stresses that there is a need for national authorities, relief agencies and other relevant actors to continue to improve the sharing of relevant information related to natural disasters and complex emergencies, including on disaster response and mitigation, and to take full advantage of United Nations emergency information services, such as ReliefWeb and the Integrated Regional Information Network;

11. Emphasizes that coordination of humanitarian assistance within the United Nations system is a mandate of the Secretary-General, as reflected in resolution 46/182; and that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in this regard;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003, on the progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including the implementation of and follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002 and the present resolution.

On 20 December, the Assembly decided that the item “Strengthening of the coordination of
humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-seventh (2003) session (decision 57/585).

UN and other humanitarian personnel

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/217 [YUN 2001, p. 1349], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of UN personnel [A/57/300], which noted that over the past decade threats against them had escalated at an unprecedented rate.

In resolution 57/155 of 16 December (see p. 1414), the Assembly urged States to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and UN personnel, investigate threats or acts of violence against them and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Resource mobilization

Central Emergency Revolving Fund

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/107 [YUN 2001, p. 825], the Secretary-General submitted a November report on enhancing the functioning and utilization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) [A/57/613]. He noted that there had recently been a marked increase in advances to UN agencies for emergency measures due to the broadened application of CERF, which was established in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 584]. In accordance with resolution 56/107, CERF could be used for natural disasters, protracted emergencies and support for staff security arrangements. Of some $42 million advanced in 2002, over $26 million was for drought in Southern Africa. Most of the remaining funds were advanced to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the DPKO Mine Action Service and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The Secretary-General proposed that, in the light of the steady rise in use of CERF since 1999, it might be prudent to keep in abeyance a proposal for a trust fund for low-profile emergencies, which would address some of the most critical humanitarian needs for which no satisfactory funding had been received through the appeals process. He said that the Assembly might wish to support the efforts of the ERC to monitor and analyse further the function and utilization of CERF before proposing any changes, and ask the Coordinator to recommend how to maximize the Fund’s value by addressing the issue of low funding for low-profile or so-called forgotten emergencies with donors.

In 2002, 37 CERF grants were made in the amount of $58 million.

Consolidated appeals

The consolidated appeals process continued to coordinate and facilitate the capacity of the UN system to meet its inter-agency resource requirements. In 2002, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners issued consolidated appeals that sought some $4.4 billion for assistance to Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the northern Caucasus, the Congo, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Eritrea, the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, Guinea, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South-Eastern Europe, the Southern Africa region, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Uganda, Western Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The latest available data indicated that 66.3 per cent ($2.9 billion) of requirements had been met for about 45 million targeted beneficiaries.

(Mine clearance

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/219 [YUN 2001, p. 829], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/57/430], presented information, based on the views of 15 Member States, on progress made in the implementation of the six strategic goals of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy for 2001-2005 [YUN 2001, p. 828] (information, emergency response, assistance to national and local authorities, quality management, integration and resource mobilization, and universalization of international instruments related to mines/unexploded ordnance). The Member States reported progress achieved in all areas and suggested ways to optimize the Strategy through improved coordination and cooperation, integration and prioritization—designing and implementing strategies and activities in the broader context of humanitarian and development aid—political commitment and information-sharing mechanisms. The report concluded that the first year of implementation of the Strategy allowed for a more systematic approach in organizing the work plans of mine-action organizations within the UN system. Some of the priorities highlighted in the report were the review of the International Mine Action Standards, further efforts to build partnerships with relevant organizations and adequate funding for the transition of mine-action activities to national responsibility.
On 16 December [meeting 76], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/159 [draft: A/57/1 L.53 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 28].

Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,


Stressing also that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has a significant role to play in the field of assistance in mine action, and recognizing mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded ordnance that constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, to humanitarian aid operations and to reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions, and that have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-affected countries,

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and other unexploded ordnance pose to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations,


Deeply alarmed by the number of mines that continue to be laid each year, as well as the presence of a decreasing but still very large number of mines and other unexploded ordnance as a result of armed conflicts, and the remaining conviction of the necessity and urgency of a significant increase in mine-clearance efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the threat of landmines to civilians as soon as possible,

Noting the inclusion in Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of a number of provisions of importance for mine-clearance operations, notably the requirement of detectability, and provision of information and technical and material assistance necessary to remove or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines and booby traps, and noting also that Amended Protocol II to the Convention entered into force on 3 December 1998,

Noting also the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the Third Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention, held in Geneva on 10 December 2001,

Recalling that the States parties at the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention decided to explore further the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines, the effects of explosive remnants of wars and possible measures which could reduce the risk of casualties among civilian populations and humanitarian problems after conflicts,

Noting that additional States have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which entered into force on 1 March 1999, bringing the total number of States that have formally accepted the obligations therein to one hundred and thirty,

Noting also the conclusions of the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 16 to 20 September 2002, taking note of the reaffirmed commitments that were made, among other things, to intensify further the efforts in those areas most directly related to the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention, to provide assistance for mine clearance and rehabilitation, the social and economic reintegration of mine victims and mine-risk education programmes and to eradicate anti-personnel mines, and taking note of the work of the intersessional programme established by States parties to the Convention,

Stressing the need to convince mine-affected States to halt new deployments of anti-personnel mines in order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of mine-clearance operations,

Stressing also the need to convince non-State actors to halt immediately and unconditionally new deployments of anti-personnel mines,

Recognizing the importance of assisting mine clearance in mine-affected countries by ensuring that the necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance are provided to help to remove existing minefields, mines, booby traps and other unexploded ordnance,

Noting that the resources allocated to mine clearance and other mine-action activities have increased in recent years, but stressing the need to mobilize additional resources to meet increasing requirements, and encouraging all States, the United Nations and other international, regional and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts in this regard,

Concerned at the limited availability of safe and cost-effective mine-detection and mine-clearance equipment, as well as the need for effective global coordination in research and development to improve the relevant technology, and conscious of the need to promote further and more rapid progress in this field and to foster international, national and local technical cooperation to that end,
Reaffirming the need to reinforce international and regional cooperation and coordination in the area of mine action and to devote the necessary resources to that end, including resources to support national and regional capacity-building initiatives, where applicable, and the work of the United Nations in that regard,

Welcoming the various established mine-action coordination centres, as well as the creation and existence of international trust funds for mine clearance and other mine-action activities,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandates of several peacekeeping operations of provisions relating to mine-action work carried out under the direction of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in the context of such operations,

Commending the action taken by donor and recipient Governments, the United Nations system, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts and seek solutions to the problems related to the presence of mines and other unexploded ordnance, as well as their assistance to victims of mines,

Welcoming the role of the Secretary-General in increasing public awareness of the problem of landmines,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Calls, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of States, with the assistance of the United Nations and institutions as appropriate, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries in which mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population or an impediment to social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels, and urges all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, to assist mine-affected countries in the establishment and development of national capacities in mine clearance, mine awareness and victim assistance;
3. Invites Member States to develop and support national programmes, where appropriate in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to promote awareness of landmines, including among women and children;
4. Expresses its appreciation to Governments, regional organizations and other donors for their financial and in-kind contributions to mine action, including contributions for emergency operations and for national and local capacity-building programmes;
5. Appeals to Governments, regional organizations and other donors to continue and, whenever possible, increase their support to mine action through further contributions, including contributions through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, to allow for the timely delivery of mine-action assistance in emergency situations, and stresses that such assistance should be integrated into broader humanitarian and other strategies;
6. Stresses the importance of international support for emergency assistance to victims of mines and other unexploded ordnance and for the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of the victims, and also stresses that such assistance should be integrated into broader public health and socio-economic strategies;
7. Encourages the finalization of an emergency response plan by the United Nations to respond to emergency mine-action requirements, and emphasizes the need for that plan to build upon all existing capacities;
8. Encourages all relevant multilateral and national programmes and bodies to include, in coordination with the United Nations, activities related to mine action in their humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building;
9. Encourages Governments, relevant United Nations bodies and other donors to take further action to promote gender- and age-appropriate mine-risk education programmes, victim assistance and child-centred rehabilitation, thereby reducing the number of child victims and relieving their plight;
10. Stresses the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action, while emphasizing once again the important role of the United Nations in the effective coordination of mine-action activities, based on the United Nations policy on mine action and effective, coordination, and especially the role of the Mine Action Service, stresses also the important role that national authorities and regional organizations can play in this regard, and underlines the need for the continuous assessment of these roles by the General Assembly;
11. Emphasizes the role of the Mine Action Service as the focal point for mine action within the United Nations system and its ongoing collaboration with and coordination of all mine-related activities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and in this regard expresses its appreciation of the roles played by other bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with United Nations mine-action policy;
12. Notes with appreciation the implementation of the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 developed by the Secretary-General, and requests him to review it formally by further seeking and taking into account the views of Member States and taking into consideration the impact of the landmine problem on rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, in order to ensure the effectiveness of assistance in mine action by the United Nations;
13. Emphasizes the importance of undertaking further multisectoral assessments and surveys to better define the nature, scope and impact of the landmine problem in affected countries and to support the establishment of clear priorities and national plans of action, notes with appreciation the ongoing development by the United Nations of the International Mine Action Standards, with the assistance of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and other partners in mine action, to support the safe and effective conduct of mine-action activities, emphasizes the need for an inclusive process to be followed in the development and review of such standards, and encourages the Secretary-General to circulate the completed standards as a United Nations document to all Member States;
14. Takes note with appreciation of the information management policy for mine action submitted by the Secretary-General, and emphasizes in this context the importance of developing and maintaining a comprehensive information management system for mine action, and encourages States to support the activities of those centres and the trust funds established for the coordination and promotion of assistance in mine action;

15. Requests the Mine Action Service to develop further the electronic mine information network as a user-friendly repository of mine-related information and as a means for mine-action programmes to circulate on a regular basis to donors and other partners standard reports on the scope and impact of the mine problem, available mine-action resources and capacities and the progress achieved in the field;

16. Urges Member States and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General and, in particular, to provide him with information and data, as well as other appropriate resources that could be useful in strengthening the coordination role of the United Nations in mine action;

17. Emphasizes, in this regard, the importance of recovering the location of mines, of retaining all such records and making them available to concerned parties upon cessation of hostilities, and welcomes the strengthening of the relevant provisions in international law;

18. Calls upon Member States, especially those that have the capacity to do so, to provide the necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance, as appropriate, and to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby traps and other devices, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

19. Recognizes the importance of the various mine-action coordination centres, encourages the further establishment of such centres, including those supported by the United Nations Development Programme or under the auspices of the Mine Action Service, especially in emergency situations, and encourages States to support the activities of those centres and the trust funds established for the coordination and promotion of assistance in mine action;

20. Urges Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have the ability to do so, to provide, as appropriate, technological assistance to mine-affected countries and to promote user-oriented scientific research and development on mine-action techniques and technology, within reasonable time frames, so that mine-action activities may be carried out more effectively at lower costs and through safer means and to promote international and local collaboration in this regard;

21. Encourages Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to support ongoing activities to promote appropriate technology, as well as international operational and safety standards for mine-action activities;

22. Takes note with appreciation of the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to study ways and means of increasing public awareness of the impact of the problem of landmines and other unexploded ordnance on affected countries and the presentation of options to this effect to the General Assembly;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the progress achieved in all relevant issues outlined both in his previous reports to the Assembly on assistance in mine clearance and mine action and in the present resolution, including the progress made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and regional organizations as well as national programmes, and on the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action and other mine-action programmes;

24. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled “Assistance in mine action”.

**New international humanitarian order**

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/73 [YUN 2000, p. 854], the Secretary-General, in a November report [A/57/583], presented the views of four Member States and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues on the promotion of a new international humanitarian order. The report made a series of recommendations for adoption by the Assembly, which were incorporated in a December resolution (below).

**General Assembly action**

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/57/581], adopted resolution 57/184 without vote [agenda item 104].

**New international humanitarian order**

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 55/73 of 4 December 2000 and those preceding it concerning the promotion of a new international humanitarian order and cooperation in the humanitarian field,
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General and his previous reports containing the views of Governments and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,
Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, and the annex thereto,
Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in the context of the international response to emergencies,
Reaffirming the importance of adherence to internationally accepted norms and principles and the need to promote, as required, national and international legisl-
lation to meet actual and potential humanitarian challenges.

Noting the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General on promoting strict adherence to refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments,

Recognizing the importance of action at the national and regional levels and the role that regional organizations can play in certain cases to prevent humanitarian crises,

Aware of the important role that non-governmental agencies and the private sector can play in the humanitarian context,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General in the humanitarian field, and urges Governments to assist him in promoting a new international humanitarian order corresponding to new realities and challenges, including the development of an agenda for humanitarian action;

2. Calls upon Governments to provide expertise and the necessary means to identify the building blocks of such an order and agenda, plan the architecture and undertake the required supplementary activities;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to promote strict adherence to refugee law, international humanitarian law, human rights and internationally accepted norms and principles in situations of armed conflict and complex emergencies;

4. Reiterates that international cooperation in the humanitarian field facilitates better understanding, mutual respect, confidence and tolerance among countries and peoples, thus contributing to a more just and non-violent world;

5. Recognizes that institutional arrangements and actions by governmental and non-governmental bodies require further strengthening so that they can respond more effectively and speedily to contemporary humanitarian problems;

6. Invites the Member States, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to strengthen the capacities of regional and subregional organizations in the context of the response to complex humanitarian crises;

7. Encourages the private sector and non-governmental bodies to assist and support national and international efforts to respond to humanitarian challenges and to alleviate human suffering;

8. Invites the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to reinforce further its activities and its cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the other relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and the relevant international and non-governmental bodies and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made concerning the promotion of a new international humanitarian order and compliance with refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments in armed conflicts and emergency situations.

Humanitarian activities

Africa

Angola

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Humanitarian Assistance Appeal for Angola, launched in 2001 for a total of $296 million to assist 2.5 million beneficiaries during 2002, received 69.5 per cent ($206 million) of requirements.

Although hostilities ceased in 2002, the United Nations regarded the humanitarian crisis in Angola as one of the worst in the world. The impact of guerrilla and counter-insurgency warfare, combined with years of under-investment in the social sectors, had created crisis conditions affecting one quarter of the country’s population.

By June, the caseload for emergency assistance had climbed from 1.9 million Angolans to nearly 3 million, one third of whom were on the brink of survival. In addition, the onset of seasonal rains threatened to cut off 40 per cent of the areas receiving humanitarian aid and to leave some 1 million without assistance until March or April 2003. In November 2002, OCHA launched a further consolidated appeal covering 2003.

(See also p. 913 under “Special economic assistance”.)

Eritrea

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Eritrea, launched in 2001 for a total of $92 million to assist 1.4 million beneficiaries during 2002, met 49.6 per cent ($46 million) of requirements.

In 2002, thousands of internally displaced persons continued to return to their home areas from camps, and efforts were made to reintegrate them. While the response to the humanitarian situation was ongoing, Eritrea was struck by severe drought affecting the primary agricultural areas of Gash Barka and Debub, in addition to the traditionally drought-prone areas. The recurrence of the drought reduced the resilience and self-reliance of the affected population to a minimal level and not only caused food insecurity but also led to problems regarding livestock, health, water and sanitation, and education. A further consolidated appeal was launched to cover assistance requirements for 2003, especially in the light of the drought’s effects.

Great Lakes region and Central Africa

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, launched in 2001 and covering 2002, sought a total of $68 million, of which 94 per cent ($64 mil-
lion) was received. (Neither Rwanda nor the United Republic of Tanzania issued appeals in 2002, due to the former emphasizing development assistance in the country and the latter opting to rely on funding from individual organizations.)

At year’s end, the region hosted some 1.2 million refugees as populations fled across porous borders to escape continued conflict (see p. 98), while an estimated 3.4 million persons remained internally displaced. Other key issues were access to basic health structures, poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, food insecurity, human rights violations, vulnerable groups and constraints on humanitarian assistance.

Burundi

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi, launched in 2001 and covering 2002, sought a total of $72 million. Some 38.6 per cent ($28 million) of that amount was met.

Civil war continued in Burundi, with intensified fighting in the eastern provinces severely restricting access to vulnerable populations (see p. 135). Although the United Nations and its partners addressed and stabilized many of the acutely distressed populations in accessible areas, little progress was made in reducing the emergency case-load. The intensification of conflict, particularly in Bujumbura Rural and the border provinces, led to increased temporary displacement, affecting up to 100,000 people every month, while a further 387,469 people lived in 226 permanent displacement sites. High morbidity and mortality rates among women, children and elderly and displaced persons continued, as did high levels of food insecurity, sudden onset emergencies, such as cholera and meningitis outbreaks, and extreme vulnerability among populations.

Congo (Republic of the)

Within the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, a separate appeal was launched for the Republic of the Congo for 2002 totalling $35 million, of which 38.3 per cent ($13.5 million) was received.

A midterm review of the UN Plan for 2001-2002 [YUN 2001, p. 832] reported that contingency planning and emergency preparedness, which were central features of the Plan, were carried out in early in the year. The impact on the country of fighting in the Pool region (north-west of the capital, Brazzaville), since March, had caused the postponement of legislative elections, stopped rail traffic, and led to fuel and food shortages in Brazzaville. It was expected that the situation in that region would deteriorate further. Attacks on Brazzaville in June sparked the movement of an estimated 20,000 persons. A further Plan was developed for 2003-2004.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the DRC, covering 2.4 million beneficiaries in 2002 for a total of $202 million, received 48.7 per cent of that amount ($98 million).

Despite some positive developments on the political front (see p. 102), the situation in the DRC remained marked by a persistent pattern of violence and insecurity, especially in mineral-rich and/or ethnically contested areas. Ongoing conflict, displacement, decreased economic activity and a general deterioration of social services made it difficult for the population to meet its most basic food needs. Despite the contribution of development partners to the health sector, various programmes and interventions were unable to respond to the essential needs of the population. A further appeal was launched to cover 2003.

Uganda

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Uganda sought $68 million for assistance to 717,532 beneficiaries during 2002. The donor community met 62.4 per cent ($42.5 million) of requirements.

In 2002, the humanitarian situation in Uganda remained difficult. While conflict and poverty continued in the north and north-east, the south and south-west were recovering from conflict and had been able to engage in more development-oriented activities. The situation therefore required a two-pronged humanitarian approach: to meet the emergency needs of populations afflicted by conflict, and to pursue continued recovery and rehabilitation in areas emerging from conflict. The main vulnerable groups included an estimated 90,000 refugees, approximately 660,000 internally displaced persons, war victims, drought-affected people and HIV/AIDS sufferers. Thousands of abducted children were unaccounted for and remained a major concern (see p. 759).

Somalia

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/106 [YUN 2001, p. 834], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/180], reviewed the situation in Somalia and the humanitarian relief and rehabilitation assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners over the preceding year. Socio-economic conditions in Somalia were affected following the terrorist attacks in the
United Nations of 11 September 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 60], as the United States blocked the assets of Somali organizations because of their alleged links to terrorism. Growing difficulties faced by other Somali companies engaged in international money transfer operations had a major impact on Somalia’s coping mechanisms. The country continued to suffer from political turmoil and insecurity (see p. 196), and humanitarian conditions deteriorated due to the combined impact of drought, conflict and resulting displacement. Some 700,000 people were estimated to be directly affected in terms of the food supply, health services and water and sanitation. Voluntary repatriation and initial reintegration of Somali refugees to northern Somalia, where security conditions were stable, continued. Development programmes supported Somalia’s efforts in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and in the re-establishment of the rule of law and mine action. Other programmes supported child protection, the demobilization and reintegration of former child soldiers, psychosocial trauma counselling, poverty reduction, and constraints to private sector growth and development. OCHA continued its activities to ensure a coordinated response to the special needs of internally displaced persons.

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Somalia requested $83 million to cover 750,000 beneficiaries in 2002, of which 52 per cent ($43 million) was met. A further consolidated appeal was planned for 2003.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 16 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/154 [draft: A/57/L.65 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

**Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/160 of 18 December 1992 and subsequent relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 56/106 of 14 December 2001,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 783(1992) of 23 January 1992 and subsequent relevant resolutions, in which the Council, inter alia, urged all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia, and reiterated the call for the full respect of the security and safety of the personnel of those organizations and guarantee of their complete freedom of movement in and around Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia,

Recalling further statements by the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2000 and 28 March 2002, by which the Security Council condemned attacks on humanitarian personnel and called upon all parties in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement and access throughout Somalia,

Affirming its continuing support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development resolutions of 21 November 2000 and 11 January 2002, which provide a general framework for the Somali reconciliation process,

Welcoming, in that regard, the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the Structures and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process, adopted in Eldoret, Kenya, on 27 October 2002 by the various Somali parties, including the Transitional National Government, which represents a fundamental step that will ensure a wider consensual basis for further participation and peace,

Also welcoming the launch of the six working committees to address the core issues of the peace process,

Noting the linkage between the search for peace and alleviation of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia,

Firmly supporting the initiative sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for national reconciliation in Somalia, reiterating its strong support for the national reconciliation process and the ongoing peace conference being held in Eldoret, and urging all parties throughout Somalia to participate in the process, in accordance with the framework established by the Intergovernmental Authority,

Recalling its firm support for the peace and reconciliation process sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for Somalia and for the efforts of its Technical Committee, comprising the frontline States of Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti, and coordinated by Kenya, for its role in facilitating the process,

Noting the cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others in their efforts to resolve the humanitarian, security and political crisis in Somalia, and bearing in mind the respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Somalia,

Noting with concern the prevailing serious drought situation in the Horn of Africa, in particular the affected areas of Somalia,

Noting with grave concern the dire humanitarian situation that the Somali people face and the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and relief,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts made by the Secretary-General to assist the Somali people in their efforts to promote stability, peace and national reconciliation, and underlining its strong resolve to support in a practical manner the United Nations system in its incremental approach to peace-building and targeted assistance, focused on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure and on sustainable community-based activities,

Welcoming the continued focus of the United Nations, in partnership with civil society at the grassroots level, on programmes of assistance, including both humanitarian and development approaches, taking into consideration the conditions on the ground,
\textit{Re-emphasizing} the importance of further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services throughout the country.

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General,

1. \textit{Expresses its appreciation} to the Secretary-General for his continued and tireless efforts to mobilize assistance for the Somali people;

2. \textit{Encourages} the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services throughout Somalia;

3. \textit{Reiterates its full support} for the peace process sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the efforts of the Technical Committee coordinated by Kenya, and invites the Intergovernmental Authority and its member States to continue their efforts to promote national reconciliation in Somalia;

4. \textit{Welcomes} the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the Structures and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process, and other agreements reached thus far in Eldoret as an important step towards the overriding objective of ending the violence affecting and the suffering of the Somali people, recognizes that they provide new and significant opportunities for the solution of the Somali crisis, and calls upon all the Somali parties to make the most of the current momentum and to do everything in their power to ensure that the conference continues its work and its success;

5. \textit{Also welcomes} the strong support of the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned States and others for their positive contribution to the peace process in Somalia, and appeals to all countries and the international organizations to continue to exercise their influence to support the peace conference and to consolidate the reconciliation process;

6. \textit{Calls upon} all Somali parties, including the Transitional National Government, individuals, political leaders and factions in Somalia, to respect the security and safety of the personnel of the United Nations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement and safe access throughout Somalia, and welcomes the commitment taken in that respect by all Somali parties at the Eldoret conference;

7. \textit{Welcomes} the strategy of the United Nations focusing on the implementation of community-based interventions aimed at rebuilding local infrastructures and increasing the self-reliance of the local population, and the ongoing efforts by the United Nations agencies, their Somali counterparts and their partner organizations to establish and maintain close coordination and cooperation mechanisms available for the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

8. \textit{Recognizes} that a comprehensive programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of militias is a condition for sustainable peace and stability in Somalia;

9. \textit{Notes} the incremental and prioritized approach of the United Nations system to addressing the continuing crisis and needs in Somalia while maintaining long-term commitments to rehabilitation, recovery and development activities;

10. \textit{Urges} the international community to provide as a matter of urgency humanitarian assistance and relief to the Somali people to alleviate in particular the consequences of the prevailing drought;

11. \textit{Emphasizes} the principle that the Somali people have the primary responsibility for their own development and for the sustainability of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance programmes, and reaffirms the importance it attaches to the creation of a workable arrangement for collaboration between the United Nations system and its partner organizations and their Somali counterparts for the effective creation of rehabilitation and development activities in those parts of the country in which peace and security prevail;

12. \textit{Urges} all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to implement further its resolution 47/160 in order to assist the Somali people in embarking on the rehabilitation of basic social and economic services, as well as institution-building aimed at the restoration of structures of civil governance at all levels in all parts of the country in which peace and security prevail;

13. \textit{Calls upon} the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

14. \textit{Calls upon} the international community to provide continuing and increased assistance in response to the United Nations 2003 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

15. \textit{Commends} the Secretary-General for the establishment of the Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia, welcomes the contributions made thus far to the Fund, and appeals to Member States to contribute to it;

16. \textit{Requests} the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary and practicable measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

\textbf{Sudan}

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Sudan, launched in 2001, sought $275 million to cover 3 million beneficiaries in 2002. Some 63.2 per cent ($174 million) of that amount was met.

There was no positive change in the humanitarian situation in the Sudan in 2002. Armed clashes resulted in heightened vulnerability for the population and an increasingly volatile and dangerous operating environment for humanitarian workers. Despite progress in the peace negotiations (see p. 217), acts of violence continued unabated and with impunity throughout the year, while humanitarian personnel continued to be abducted, held for ransom and interrogated. Water shortages, animal diseases, drought and armed banditry caused heavy livestock losses and the disruption of economic activities. In southern Sudan, large-scale population displacement took place due to aerial bombardment followed
by the deployment of ground forces. In eastern Equatoria, the laying of landmines on routes used by humanitarian organizations caused frequent road closures, which had a negative impact on the provision of humanitarian assistance. Inter-ethnic conflict, rooted in regular dry-season cattle migration and consequent competition for pastureland, cattle and water, occurred in the transition zones and parts of northern Sudan.

**West Africa**

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for West Africa, launched in 2001, sought a total of $50 million for 2002. The donor community met 81 per cent ($48 million) of that amount.

A UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Flash Appeal was launched in October to cover the immediate and pressing humanitarian needs in Côte d’Ivoire and three priority countries—Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali—from November 2002 to January 2003. The Appeal sought $22 million to reach about 3.9 million people in the subregion; 41.5 per cent ($9 million) of that amount was received.

Since the launching of the first consolidated appeal in 2001 (YUN 2001, p. 837), conditions in the subregion had improved gradually. However, the situation remained volatile, requiring international assistance to meet immediate needs and avert an expansion of the humanitarian crisis, particularly given the deteriorating conditions in Liberia (see p. 165), a fragile peace process in Sierra Leone (see p. 148) and an uncertain political future in Guinea. The institutional and operational capacities of humanitarian partners was enhanced through the formation of decentralized structures in the country’s regions and in sensitive areas.

**Liberia**

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia sought $15 million to meet the needs of 655,000 beneficiaries in 2002. Of that amount, 30.6 per cent ($5 million) was received.

Liberia’s humanitarian situation deteriorated significantly in 2002. A failing economy, poor governance and continued insecurity further exacerbated the vulnerability of the population and resulted in high levels of malnutrition, deteriorating health, inadequate water supply and sanitation, poor shelter, trauma, socio-economic displacement and breakdown of the family. The humanitarian response was constrained by the security situation (see p. 165). A further appeal was planned for 2003.

**Sierra Leone**

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Sierra Leone sought $71 million to assist 1.4 million beneficiaries in 2002. Of that amount, 54.3 per cent ($39 million) was received.

Progress in the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone during 2002 (see p. 148) opened up greater opportunities for humanitarian action, especially in assisting displaced persons and refugees to return home. The stability along the western Sierra Leone–Guinea border permitted the two countries to reach an agreement to facilitate the repatriation of some 13,800 Sierra Leonean refugees from Guinea. However, the situation in Liberia was generating new influxes of refugees. In addition, permanent shelter remained a critical problem, as did the provision of adequate water and sanitation services. Vulnerable farm families were supported with inputs to resume farming activities and education enrollment rates increased, although the gender gap remained wide. A UN appeal for relief and recovery was planned for 2003.

**Southern Africa**

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa, launched in July, sought assistance in
the amount of $531 million to cover the period from July 2002 to June 2003. Of that amount, 76.2 per cent ($404 million) was received.

In Southern Africa, over 6 million people were in need of critical lifesaving assistance and millions more were highly vulnerable, mostly due to the combined effects of HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty and food shortages. Several years of crop failures had forced people to employ negative coping strategies that depleted their reserves of assets. Livestock and possessions had been bartered or sold in exchange for food and other critical items, resulting in diverse forms of vulnerability among countries of the region. A further appeal was developed for 2003/04.

Lesotho

For Lesotho, the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa sought $6 million to assist 444,800 people from July 2002 to June 2003. Of that amount, 20.4 per cent ($1.1 million) was received.

Close to half a million people out of Lesotho’s total population of 2.2 million were facing a severe humanitarian crisis that required immediate international assistance. The causes for the humanitarian emergency were the combined effects of reduced agricultural output due to adverse weather conditions and steep increases in food prices. A weak economy, falling levels of human development and the severe HIV/AIDS pandemic further contributed to the crisis.

Malawi

For Malawi, the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa sought $17 million for 3.2 million beneficiaries from July 2002 to June 2003. Of that amount, 71.2 per cent ($11.8 million) was received.

In 2002, Malawi experienced a severe food crisis, due to chronic poverty, reliance on a single crop (maize), unfavourable weather conditions and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. The first quarter of 2002 witnessed hunger in rural Malawi at a level not seen since the 1949/50 drought. A nutrition survey showed unusually high and increasing malnutrition among infants. HIV/AIDS was an important part of structural poverty and its prevention and control were a central development concern.

Swaziland

For Swaziland, the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa sought $11 million for 231,000 beneficiaries from July 2002 to June 2003. Of that amount, 16.8 per cent ($1.9 million) was received.

In 2002, Swaziland suffered from a deepening food crisis, with at least 144,000 people severely affected and a further 87,000 moderately affected. The crisis had been brought about by an over-reliance on maize as the staple crop and a lack of diversification of crops to include drought-resistant varieties. In addition, rains had been erratic, causing drought in the eastern lowveld and poor harvests. The food security situation was compounded by a lack of clean drinking water, malnutrition and a prevalence rate of 34.2 per cent HIV/AIDS-related illnesses and deaths.

Zambia

For Zambia, the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa sought $24 million to assist 2.3 million people from July 2002 to June 2003. Of that amount, 33.1 per cent ($7.9 million) was received.

The situation in Zambia, one of the world’s poorest countries, had become critical due to a complex mix of climatic, economic and social issues that left millions of people without adequate food and water. Excessive rains resulted in floods that destroyed large crop areas. Districts in the southern and eastern provinces were the most affected and overall production of maize, the staple crop, fell by an estimated 24 per cent. Foreign debt, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and refugee influxes exacerbated the situation.

Zimbabwe

For Zimbabwe, the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa sought $51 million for 6 million beneficiaries from July 2002 to June 2003. Of that amount, 20 per cent ($10.2 million) was received.

In Zimbabwe, over 6 million people—half the population—were at risk due to the worsening food shortage, which was caused by natural phenomena, such as drought, and inappropriate macroeconomic policy. About 2.2 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, while health services were becoming increasingly difficult to access and basic drugs were in short supply. An increased reliance on survival strategies, which included poaching, prostitution and theft, had the potential to affect the population, the natural resource base and the environment.
Asia

Afghanistan

The Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 (ITAP), which, in January, replaced the consolidated appeal and covered October 2001 to December 2002, sought $1.8 billion for 7.5 million beneficiaries. Of that amount, 89.1 per cent ($1.2 billion) was received. ITAP was prepared by the UN country team for Afghanistan and incorporated the Donor Alert and revision thereto issued in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 836].

In 2002, nearly 1.8 million refugees and 400,000 internally displaced persons returned to their communities of origin, and reconstruction activities continued in many rural communities and cities throughout Afghanistan. Assistance focused on integrated national and UN-agency action in communities of return, to help assure sustainable livelihoods, essential community services, potable water supply and sanitation, and address problems of debt and asset depletion. Other areas of concern were food security, environmental degradation, drug control, women’s rights and education for children and youth, especially girls. In December, the Transitional Assistance Programme for Afghanistan (TA PA), covering January 2003 to March 2004, was launched in Oslo, Norway.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 56/220 B [YUN 2001, p. 891], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/57/410], reviewed developments in Afghanistan from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and assistance provided by the UN system and its partners.

Significant achievements in the delivery of humanitarian and recovery assistance during the reporting period included the assisted return of more than 1 million refugees, the return to school of more than 3 million children and a 90 per cent increase in girls’ enrolment, several countrywide immunization campaigns, and the effective and coordinated response to several natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods and a severe locust infestation.

The Secretary-General stated that, despite increased international assistance, the establishment of a new Government and improvements in security, serious challenges remained in Afghanistan. Given the complex interaction among drought, food insecurity and poppy cultivation, assistance partners needed to act to strengthen livelihood opportunities in vulnerable areas while supporting the reintegration of returning populations into host communities. He suggested two priorities for Member States: to ensure resources for the winter response plan and to provide support to the Afghan Government through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. The Secretary-General appealed to the donor community to support Afghanistan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/113 B [draft: A/57/ L.56 & Add.1] without vote [agenda items 21 (d) & 37].

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/220 B of 21 December 2001 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the agreement reached among various Afghan groups in Bonn, Germany, 5 December 2001 and the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

Welcoming the recent initiative of the President of the General Assembly to hold a panel discussion on Afghanistan,

Expressing its grave concern about the continuing effects of decades of conflict in Afghanistan, which has caused massive loss of life, extensive human suffering, destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people,

Mindful that Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and that some parts of its territory continue to be affected by serious drought,

Noting the accession of Afghanistan to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance, which constitutes a great danger for the civilian population and a major obstacle for the return of refugees and displaced populations and for the resumption of agricultural activities, the provision of humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts,

Welcoming the positive steps taken so far towards an improvement in the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of many Afghans, in particular women and children, however noting with grave concern that there remain discriminatory practices that hinder the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing its deep concern about reports of abuses of human rights and of international humanitarian law in parts of the country, and in this regard reminding the Transitional Authority and all Afghan groups of their commitment to respect human rights in the country, as contained in the Bonn Agreement,

Reiterating the importance of the safety and security of the humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel in Afghanistan,

Noting with concern that limited access to certain areas of Afghanistan and inadequate conditions for
the delivery of aid threaten the well-being of internally displaced persons and vulnerable sections of the civilian population.

Recognizing that a secure environment is necessary for the safe and effective delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance and is a precondition for rehabilitation, reconstruction efforts and long-term development,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation by the United Nations of the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 in response to continuing humanitarian needs,

Welcoming also the presentation of the National Development Framework and budget by the Transitional Authority as an important coordination concept for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and in this context welcoming also the introduction of the new Afghan currency,

Noting that economic recovery and reconstruction in Afghanistan and the security and improvement of the lives of the Afghan people are interrelated,

Reiterating the importance of a seamless connection between humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and welcoming the important contribution that the integrated approach of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has made in this regard,

Expressing its appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for their continued efforts in coordinating, planning and implementing humanitarian and other assistance in cooperation with the Transitional Authority,

Welcoming the return of a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons, while noting with concern that internal displacement remains a widespread phenomenon and that the conditions in certain parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to the safe and sustainable return of a significant number of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin, particularly in the northern part of the country, Acknowledging that those refugees constitute a continuing socio-economic burden for the neighbouring host countries, expressing its gratitude to those countries that continue to host Afghan refugee populations, and at the same time once again calling upon all groups to continue to fulfil their obligations for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and to allow international access for their protection and care,

Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff have responded positively and continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance;

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Stresses that the responsibility for the solution of the humanitarian crisis lies above all with the Afghan people themselves, and urges them to continue their efforts to achieve national reconciliation;
3. Urges all Afghan groups to actively support the Transitional Authority in meeting the responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, to cooperate fully with the mine action programme coordinated by the United Nations and to effect the destruction of all existing stocks of landmines;

4. Welcomes the determination of the Transitional Authority to take the lead in reconstruction efforts, and welcomes the contribution of donors to meet the requirements of the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002, urges them to fulfil promptly the funding commitments made at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, and invites them to provide additional resources beyond those pledged in Tokyo;

5. Stresses the coordinating role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan for the United Nations system in ensuring a seamless connection between humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, including the cooperation of the United Nations system with other actors in the international community, in particular with the international financial institutions;

6. Commends the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Afghanistan Support Group for the work accomplished, as well as the Implementation Group for coordinating the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and encourages such coordination efforts to continue so as to facilitate the effective and efficient delivery of assistance;

7. Also commends the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in supporting the national development budget process, which will play an important role in increasing the integration of the programmes of United Nations agencies, their partners and the Transitional Authority;

8. Welcomes the establishment of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and the Law and Order Trust Fund as mechanisms for mobilizing international support to Afghanistan;

9. Encourages the international community to actively participate and financially contribute to these rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and also encourages the international community to channel assistance through the national development budget of the Afghan Transitional Authority and to focus attention on building the capacity of Afghans;

10. Strongly condemns all acts of violence and intimidation directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and regrets the loss of life and physical harm suffered among the staff;

11. Urges the Transitional Authority and local authorities to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel, as well as their safe and unimpeded access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations;

12. Strongly condemns continuing discrimination against women and girls as well as ethnic and religious groups, including minorities, wherever such discrimination takes place;
13. Emphasizes the importance of actively involving all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

14. Reminds all Afghan groups of their commitment to the Bonn Agreement, and calls upon them to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of gender, ethnicity or religion, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men;

15. Calls upon the international community to assist the Transitional Authority in demobilizing and reintegrating war-affected children and in providing Afghan children with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, and urges all Afghan groups to refrain from the recruitment or use of children contrary to international standards;

16. Calls upon the Transitional Authority to facilitate the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims of grave violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law and to bring the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international law;

17. Appeals to the Transitional Authority and the international community to mainstream gender issues into all humanitarian assistance and future rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, and to actively attempt to promote the full and equal participation and benefit to both women and men of those programmes;

18. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, and reminds them of their obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees and the right to seek asylum;

19. Calls upon the international community to consider providing further assistance in support of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, including for their voluntary and safe return and reintegration;

20. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of neighbouring States hosting United Nations agencies for their cooperation, and calls upon them to continue to facilitate the work of United Nations humanitarian operations on their territory in order to ensure the continued efficient delivery of emergency aid into Afghanistan;

21. Urgently appeals to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the Transitional Authority and Afghan civil society, all possible humanitarian, financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population;

22. Calls upon the international community to respond generously and without delay to the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 as well as to long-term interventions towards rehabilitation and reconstruction;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every four months during its fifty-seventh session on the progress of the United Nations and the efforts of his Special Representative to promote peace in Afghanistan, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

In resolution 57/113 A of 6 December (see p. 273), the Assembly called for continued international assistance to Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their safe and orderly return and sustainable reintegration into society.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), launched in 2001, which sought $247 million to assist 6.5 million beneficiaries in 2002, met 89.1 per cent ($220 million) of requirements.

The DPRK's ongoing economic difficulties continued to have a direct impact on the humanitarian situation. Exacerbated by typhoons in July and August, there had been a decrease in productivity accompanied by a continued decline in the provision of social services. The consolidated appeal targeted food security, water and sanitation facilities, health care and nutrition and education. A further appeal was launched in November to cover 2003.

Indonesia

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Indonesia, launched in 2001 and calling for $41 million to assist 250,000 beneficiaries in 2002, met 31.5 per cent ($12.9 million) of requirements.

Approximately 1.4 million people remained displaced in Indonesia by inter-communal violence; most of them had become dependent on government and community support. Education and health-care facilities had been overstretched or damaged and many skilled workers were excluded from employment due to inter-communal segregation. Another 2 million to 3 million others were also affected by the crisis as they continued to reside in conflict-ravaged areas or struggled to support the additional influx of internally displaced persons seeking refuge in their communities. The Appeal focused on assistance and protection needs in the conflict areas of Aceh, Kalimantan and Medura, Malukus, Papua and Central Sulawesi. A further consolidated appeal to cover 2003 was launched in November.

Tajikistan

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Tajikistan, launched in 2001, which sought $77 million to aid 1.4 million beneficiaries in 2002, met 94.8 per cent ($73 million) of requirements. A further appeal covering 2003 was launched in November.
Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 56/10 [YUN 2001, p. 848], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/156], reviewed developments in Tajikistan between 15 July 2001 and 22 May 2002. He reported on assistance provided by the United Nations and the international community in the areas of food aid, agricultural support, refugee repatriation and support, health care and nutrition, women’s initiatives in peace-building and national reconciliation, access to water and sanitation, access to education, child protection, rehabilitation and development, and drug control and drug abuse. The Secretary-General concluded that, although Tajikistan had made further progress to consolidate peace and stability, the security environment remained fragile and unpredictable. In addition, the inability to address structural weaknesses and to achieve significant economic improvement continued to create acute humanitarian problems and to slow the process of post-conflict stabilization in the country. Pervasive poverty amplified the impact of even small-scale natural disasters, and large sections of society in both urban and rural areas remained dependent on international humanitarian assistance. The Secretary-General encouraged donors to contribute to humanitarian, development and peace-building activities in Tajikistan and proposed that the Assembly consider reviewing the item biennially rather than annually, in keeping with the pace of developments.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 59], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/103 (draft: A/57/L.42 & Add.1) without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and rehabilitation in Tajikistan

The Assembly,


Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the further progress made by Tajikistan during the past year in consolidating peace, stability and a secure environment in the country,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the United Nations played a successful and important role in the peace process, expressing the belief that the Organization should continue to provide assistance to Tajikistan in post-conflict peace-building, and welcoming in this regard the efforts of the United Nations Tajikistan Office for Peace-building,

Noting with regret that the humanitarian situation has not improved, owing to the severe economic situation and the effects of drought, and that significant humanitarian needs continue to exist throughout Tajikistan,

Recognizing that the efforts of the Government and the assistance provided by the United Nations have been critical to covering immediate emergency needs and to mitigating the effects of the two-year drought on vulnerable households,

Recognizing also that the main humanitarian and rehabilitation objectives of the United Nations are to initiate a sustainable improvement in food security, improve access to primary health care and other basic social services, contribute to social rehabilitation, in particular through capacity-building within communities and the creation of employment opportunities, and combat drug trafficking and drug abuse,

Expressing concern that, despite the serious humanitarian situation in Tajikistan, the donor response to the 2002 consolidated appeals process has not yet reached its target, especially in such vital sectors as health, education and water sanitation in which needs are most crucial and for which urgent funding is needed,

Stressing that international funding for humanitarian operations is particularly important since such operations remain the principal means by which hundreds of thousands of Tajiks meet their basic needs,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
3. Stresses that the current phase of post-conflict peace-building requires continued international assistance for Tajikistan;
4. Recognizes that humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance remains crucial, not only to sustain life but also to promote development and prevent renewed conflict;
5. Welcomes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General in drawing the attention of the international community to the acute humanitarian problems of Tajikistan and in mobilizing assistance for the post-conflict rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of the country;
6. Expresses its appreciation to the Member States, the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank and other intergovernmental organizations and all relevant humanitarian organizations, agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, that have responded and continue to respond positively to the humanitarian needs of Tajikistan;
7. Encourages Member States and others concerned to continue to provide assistance to alleviate the urgent humanitarian needs of Tajikistan through the consolidated appeals process and to offer support to Tajikistan for the post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction of its economy;
8. Emphasizes the importance of further cooperation and assistance from the authorities in facilitating the work of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, welcomes in this regard the establishment of the Aid Coordination Unit in the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan for the purpose of tracking international humanitarian assistance, and urges the authorities to continue to simplify and streamline without delay the relevant in-
ternal bureaucratic procedures and requirements for the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

9. Warmly welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to continue the United Nations humanitarian programme in Tajikistan by issuing a consolidated inter-agency appeal for humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan for 2003, taking into account current developments in the region, and urges Member States to fund fully and in a timely manner programmes included in the appeal in order to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in Tajikistan while the country moves ahead with peace-building and economic development;

10. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to re-evaluate all United Nations humanitarian assistance activities in Tajikistan with a view to preparing a common humanitarian strategy that would support the relief and recovery operations during the transitional period from relief to development, with a major focus on promoting self-reliance and sustainable development;

11. Stresses the need to ensure the security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel, and of United Nations and associated personnel, as well as the safety and security of their premises, equipment and supplies;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Tajikistan and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

13. Decides to consider at its fifty-ninth session the question of the situation in Tajikistan under the item entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance”.

Europe

North Caucasus (Russian Federation)

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for the North Caucasus, launched in 2001, sought a total of $24 million to assist 750,000 people in 2002. The donor community met 78 per cent ($19.7 million) of requirements.

In 2002, several thousand people returned voluntarily to Chechnya. However, the number of returns neither met the expectations of the political leadership nor diminished significantly the internally displaced population in Ingushetia. Insecurity in Chechnya and the associated difficulties in establishing a socio-economic environment hampered the return of internally displaced persons, and security concerns and lack of access to civilians prevented the humanitarian community from providing more assistance. Economic activity improved in the region, especially in agriculture and the oil industry, and the Chechnya administration carried out initiatives to promote job creation. That proved to be difficult, however, as resource transfers from the federal centre to the republic continued to be subjected to significant delays. An appeal for 2003 was launched in November.

South-Eastern Europe

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for South-Eastern Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)), launched in 2001 and updated in January 2002, which sought $213 million for 2 million beneficiaries in 2002, met 63.3 per cent ($135 million) of requirements.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, distribution of food and material assistance to returnee families and the collective centres’ residents continued. The total number of beneficiaries selected to receive food during the winter was 18,064. The most vulnerable groups and local institutions were assisted in the areas of protection and human rights, and some progress was made on child rights issues. By the end of March, the rate of property law implementation increased to nearly 46 per cent of 255,612 claims. Major advances were made in the area of mine action.

Progress was made in Croatia on several return-of-refugees and human rights issues. However, little advancement was seen with regard to asylum and trafficking in persons.

The situation in FRY, excluding Kosovo province, was stable and improving. The country was host to some 392,100 refugees from the former Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia and 250,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo. Further progress was made in developing structures and relationships to resolve contested issues in a peaceful manner, and the number of people dependent on humanitarian assistance decreased.

In Kosovo, the passage of legislation and constitutional amendments (see p. 362) and a successful donor conference (Brussels, Belgium, March) paved the way for faster than anticipated normalization. It also fostered, to some extent, reconciliation between ethnic Macedonian and ethnic Albanian populations. Several hundred spontaneous returns occurred in 2002, particularly in areas where minorities had witnessed increased freedom of movement. The total vulnerable population receiving humanitarian assistance through the consolidated appeals process fell from 950,000 in June 1999 to 53,000 in April 2002.

In FYROM, continued humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance was needed to tackle the remaining obstacles to the return of the displaced population and to move communities past the current fragile peace (see p. 383). Key humanitarian concerns included the ongoing threat of unexploded ordnance and mines, which had an im-
and the rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States, in particular major contributors, international agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in particular emergency assistance provided by the European Union and various countries.

Recognizing the role of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the stabilization and association process for the western Balkans in assisting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its efforts in further promoting democratic and economic reforms and in intensifying regional cooperation,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance given to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for South-Eastern Europe, and the humanitarian assistance provided by many Member States outside the framework of the consolidated appeal, through non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and initiatives and bilateral channels.

Welcoming the fact that, at the donor conference hosted jointly by the World Bank and the European Commission in Brussels on 29 June 2001, the programme for reform and development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia received strong support and confirmed that meeting the basic needs of vulnerable groups within the refugee, displaced and resident population remains a priority for humanitarian agencies,

Concerned at the continued urgency of the humanitarian situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, aware of the magnitude of the humanitarian requirements of major parts of the population, and recognizing the need to ensure effective links between relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Aware of the weakness of the economy and basic services, which exacerbates further the situation of socially and economically vulnerable segments of the population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and which is coupled with limited basic social services capacity, especially in the health sector,

Acknowledging that a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons remain in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that assistance requirements will include local integration, whenever refugees and internally displaced persons are not willing to return to their places of origin,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in Belgrade,

Welcoming the role of the United Nations in helping the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to resolve the humanitarian problems that confront it and in coordinating the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the country,

Acknowledging the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in completing the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and inter-

pact on access to reconstruction and agriculture programmes, and the redeployment of mixed police patrols. Urgent funds were needed to repair remaining damaged houses and for seasonal agricultural inputs. Support for improving health care in underserved areas and enhanced functioning of conflict-affected schools was also required.

**Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/101 [YUN02, p.846], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/174], reviewed humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights developments in FR Yugoslavia between 15 July 2001 and 30 June 2002. He described assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners in the areas of coordination, winterization efforts, food aid, shelter, health services, water and sanitation, education and child welfare, agriculture, the promotion of durable solutions, environmental damage, mine action and human rights.

The Secretary-General observed that democratic reform had stabilized the situation within the country and around the regions of South-Eastern Europe. The priority for the humanitarian community was to establish linkages with the development agenda and the formulation of policies regarding the needs of refugees, displaced persons and the most vulnerable persons. While new opportunities for durable solutions were being provided, progress on those solutions for the Kosovo internally displaced population was difficult and protracted. Although humanitarian needs had declined, continued donor support was required. The Secretary-General proposed that the Assembly consider whether a report on the humanitarian situation in FR Yugoslavia was still required, as the needs in FR Yugoslavia had been substantially reduced.

**Humanitarian and special economic assistance**

**Humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, and reaffirming that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/96 F of 15 December 1999, 55/169 of 14 December 2000 and 56/101 of 14 December 2001, concerning humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and the rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States, in particular major contributors, international agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in particular emergency assistance provided by the European Union and various countries,

Recognizing the role of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the stabilization and association process for the western Balkans in assisting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its efforts in further promoting democratic and economic reforms and in intensifying regional cooperation,
national support for developing a poverty reduction strategy and a Roma integration strategy in 2002.

Recognizing a decrease in humanitarian assistance in 2002 due to a shift in donor funding which is progressively being reoriented to longer-term development assistance and the developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards stabilization, transition and development programmes,

1. Calls upon all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons, bearing in mind in particular the special situation of women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, while seeking durable solutions for a safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin, or for settlement at their place of refuge for those who want to integrate locally, in cooperation with the local authorities;

2. Also calls upon all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to offer support to the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its efforts to ensure the transition from relief to the long-term goals of the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the country;

3. Welcomes the continued commitment of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and encourages it to cooperate further with the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to address the humanitarian needs of the affected population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and urges the relevant authorities and the international community to support programmes that will ensure that the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are met and to pursue durable solutions to their plight, in particular voluntary repatriation and reintegration, stresses the need to create conditions that are conducive to their safe return, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of regional cooperation in the search for solutions to the plight of refugees;

4. Calls upon all Member States and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist financially and otherwise in the establishment of durable solutions for the refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General, as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies, to continue to mobilize the timely provision of international humanitarian and development assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

6. Recognizes that there will be no United Nations consolidated humanitarian appeal for 2003 and nevertheless emphasizes the importance of the coordination of humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, inter alia, through the mechanisms of the United Nations resident coordinator system;

7. Requests the United Nations and the specialized agencies to continue their efforts to assess the humanitarian needs, in cooperation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, relevant international and regional organizations and bodies and interested States, with a view to ensuring effective links between relief and longer-term assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, taking into account the work already carried out in this field and the need to avoid duplication and the overlapping of efforts;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance”, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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**Special economic assistance**

**African economic recovery and development**

At a high-level plenary meeting on 16 September, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), in which it welcomed NEPAD (a framework for action towards the continent’s sustainable development) as an African Union (AU)-led, -owned and -managed initiative and urged the UN system and the international community, in particular donor countries, to assist with its implementation. NEPAD was adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (which became the AU in July) in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 900].

The high-level meeting was also part of the final review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/131 [YUN 1991, p. 492]. The Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the New Agenda in the 1990s, and adopted a 4 November resolution on the subject on the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendation, expressing disappointment at the limited progress made in realizing the New Agenda’s objectives. In that resolution, the Assembly also welcomed and expressed support for NEPAD. The New Agenda was also considered by a panel of eminent personalities and the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In the context of the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) considered a detailed evaluation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa and un-
declined the need for agencies and organizations of the UN system to support NEPAD.

In July, the Economic and Social Council decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, an ad hoc advisory group to examine the humanitarian and economic needs of the country concerned. On 25 October, it established a group on Guinea-Bissau.

The Assembly took action on economic assistance for Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Mozambique.

New Partnership for Africa’s Development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/218 [YUN 2001, p. 850], a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly took place on 16 September to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), in line with the 18 July 2001 ministerial declaration of the Economic and Social Council [ibid., p. 909], which called for UN system and international community support for NEPAD. Adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (subsequently renamed the AU) in July 2001 [ibid., p. 909], NEPAD (formerly the New African Initiative) was a pledge by African leaders that they had a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries on a path of sustainable growth and development, and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politic.

Preparations for the high-level meeting were made during the Assembly’s resumed fifty-sixth session. On 16 September, the high-level plenary meeting culminated in the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (see below).

Preparations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 August [meeting 110], the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/511 [draft: A/56/L.94 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 22].

Organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which it decided that a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly should be held on 16 September 2002 to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, in line with paragraph 5 of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council, which called on the United Nations system and the international community to support the New African Initiative, now called the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001, and that preparations for the plenary meeting should be made during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly,

Convinced of the value of an interactive component to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,

1. Decides that the high-level plenary meeting to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development to be held on 16 September 2002 shall consist of two plenary meetings, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and one separate informal panel;

2. Decides also that the list of speakers for the debate in plenary shall be organized on a first-come, first-served basis. The order of precedence shall be as follows: (a) heads of State/heads of Government; (b) Vice-Presidents/Crown Princes or Princesses; (c) Deputy Prime Ministers; (d) the highest-ranking official of the Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and of Palestine, in its capacity as observer; (e) Ministers; (f) Vice-Ministers; and (g) chairmen of delegations. Should the level of representation change, the replacement speaker will be accommodated in the last position available in the appropriate category;

3. Decides further that the informal panel shall be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., in parallel with the afternoon plenary meeting, and that it will have as its theme “The international community’s partnership with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development”;

4. Decides that the informal panel shall have five panellists who will be the heads of State of the five initiating countries of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, namely, Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria, Senegal and Egypt;

5. Decides also that the head of State of Nigeria shall present orally a summary of the discussions in the informal panel to the General Assembly at the end of the debate in plenary.

UN Declaration on NEPAD

The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held on 16 September [A/57/PV.10 & 11], which concurrently discussed NEPAD and the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (see p. 908), had before it reports of the Secretary-General on the independent evaluation of the New Agenda [A/57/556 & Corr.1] (see p. 909) and on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa [A/57/75] (see p. 978).

On 14 August, South Africa transmitted to the Assembly President a document entitled “The New Partnership for Africa’s Development” [A/57/504], which was endorsed by the first AU summit (Durban, South Africa, 8–10 July). The document included, among other things, the Programme of Action: the strategy for achieving sustainable development in the twenty-first cen-
tury. By a 4 September letter [A/57/391], the Netherlands transmitted the summary and main recommendations of a policy forum on NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development) to the Secretary-General, the Assembly, in cooperation with the Netherlands and supported by the International Peace Academy.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 September [meeting 11], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/2 (draft: A/57/L.2/Rev.1 & Add.1) without vote [agenda item 41 (a)].

United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

The General Assembly
Adopts the following Declaration:

United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

1. We, heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly held on 16 September 2002, considered how to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, which is a programme of the African Union. This meeting forms part of the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s at this, the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000, and the internationally agreed development goals as the embodiment of our collective desire for and aspiration to a better world in which all peoples can live in dignity and peace.

3. We recommit ourselves to meeting the special needs of Africa as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development, adopted on 18 July 2001, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted on 22 March 2002, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), adopted at the Summit on 4 September 2002.

4. We welcome the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, as an African Union-led, -owned and -managed initiative, and recognize that it is a serious commitment to addressing the aspirations of the continent, as decided by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held at Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001.

5. We welcome the commitment of African countries to take effective and concrete measures, inter alia, through the establishment of various institutional mechanisms and the development of strategies, for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. This commitment reflects the recognition that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the New Partnership rests with the African Governments and peoples.

6. We affirm that international support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development is essential. While acknowledging the support so far expressed or provided for the New Partnership, we urge the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, to assist with the implementation of the New Partnership.

7. We call upon the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to consider how the United Nations will structure its support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and take decisions to this effect.

On 20 December, the Assembly decided to include a sub-item entitled “Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa” under a single agenda item on the development of Africa entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”, beginning in 2003 (resolution 57/296) (see p. 97).

UNCTAD action. In agreed conclusions on UNCTAD’s contribution to the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda (see below) A/57/15 (agreed conclusions 47(IX)), the Trade and Development Board welcomed NEPAD and the renewed emphasis on poverty reduction. It emphasized the importance of helping countries to undertake poverty and social impact analysis, the critical role of debt relief and official development assistance (ODA) and the role of trade as an engine for economic development in Africa. It stated that UNCTAD should, within its mandate and areas of competence, support NEPAD.

New Agenda for the Development of Africa


In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/718 [YUN 2001, p. 850], the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the final review and appraisal. On the recommendation of that Committee and of the Secretary-General, the Assembly, in November, decided to bring the New Agenda to a close and endorse NEPAD as the framework within which the international community, including the UN system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa’s development.
UNCTAD consideration. At its twenty-ninth executive session (Geneva, 13 September) [TD/B/EX(29)/3 & Corr.1], the Trade and Development Board considered a June report by the UNCTAD Secretary-General on UNCTAD’s contribution to the implementation of the New Agenda [TD/B/EX(29)/2]. The report gave an overview of research and analysis undertaken by UNCTAD with regard to development in Africa and a summary of specific activities, including advisory services and technical cooperation, in each of UNCTAD’s mandated sectors—international trade, services development, debt and debt management, international investment and enterprise development and the UNCTAD/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Programme on Globalization, Liberalization and Sustainable Human Development.

Final review and appraisal

Panel meeting. The Panel of Eminent Personalities, established by the Secretary-General in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 891], presented its key findings in a June report [A/AC.25/9]. The Panel had its first meeting in November 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 850].

The Panel expressed disappointment that the New Agenda target of an average real growth rate of at least 6 per cent per annum of gross national product (GNP) was not achieved. Instead, throughout much of the decade, the growth rate was about 3 per cent due to the failure of promised external support (ODA to Africa declined from $28.6 billion in 1990 to $16.4 billion in 2000) and debt-reduction mechanisms that had yielded few significant results. Trade opportunities increased far more slowly than anticipated, and the continuing reliance on a narrow range of primary commodities deprived African economies of the benefits of the considerable growth in global exports of manufactured products. Overall, adjustment programmes had serious adverse effects on social conditions and failed to restore growth. The poor economic performance of the period was also attributed to internal factors such as governance marked by despotism and corruption. The record for agriculture was mixed, as it was in issues encompassing population, education, health and women in development. However, significant strides were made towards the process of democratization, economic cooperation and gender equality. There had been a significant increase in the number, quality and scope of South-South cooperation, especially in Africa-Asia cooperation activities.

According to the Panel, the lessons learned from the New Agenda experience and conditions for the success of new initiatives were that conflict and development were mortal enemies, development cooperation with Africa required a new orientation, commitments had to be kept, there was a need for sustained advocacy for African development, and there was a need to increase the efficiency and relevance of the United Nations.

The Panel was of the view that, given the general acknowledgement of the primary role of African ownership and leadership in the region’s development, it would be logical and appropriate for the UN system to support the region’s own development initiative, rather than launch a parallel one. It believed that NEPAD (see p. 907) provided the framework for such support.

An executive summary of the evaluation was contained in a separate document [A/AC.25/8].

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 56/218 [YUN 2001, p. 850], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/156 & Corr.1], presented comments on the independent evaluation by the Panel of Eminent Personalities of the performance of the New Agenda (see p. 908) and made proposals on UN system assistance to implement NEPAD. Drawing on the evaluation’s recommendation regarding a successor arrangement to the New Agenda, the Secretary-General proposed NEPAD as the new development policy framework for Africa, around which the international community, including the UN system, should concert its efforts for Africa’s development. He suggested that African countries should integrate NEPAD priorities into national development planning frameworks, establish focal points for NEPAD within governmental structures for that purpose and allocate substantial financial resources for NEPAD programmes. African countries had to make a special effort to strengthen their capacity for aid negotiations and management. In addition, they had to commit resources to building institutions and developing technical expertise to manage the peer review process at the national and regional levels and exert great effort towards diversification within NEPAD, particularly by creating an enabling environment for industrial development. Proposals for international support for NEPAD included a renewed and strengthened commitment by the developed nations to eliminating constraints on the export of Africa’s processed, semi-processed and agricultural goods, support for African countries’ efforts to diversify their economies, increased aid to Africa for investment in education, health and infrastructures, basing the debt sustainability analysis for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) on more realistic projections of export earnings of beneficiary countries and converting technical assistance resources to capacity-building in Af-
Africa to stimulate economic growth and industrial development.

**Ad Hoc Committee.** In response to General Assembly resolution 56/218 [YUN 2001, p. 850], the Secretary-General submitted an October report by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of UN-NADAF [A/57/468/Add.1]. As decided by the Assembly in resolution 56/508 of 27 June and decision 57/506 of 16 October, the Committee met in New York on 14 June, from 24 to 26 September and from 7 to 11 October [A/57/468] and also met on 17 October to finalize its work.

The Committee discussed the independent evaluation by the Panel of Eminent Personalities (see p. 909) and recommended to the Assembly for adoption a four-part resolution on the final review and appraisal and support for NEPAD (below).

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 November, the General Assembly [meeting 43], on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s [A/57/468/Add.1], adopted resolution 57/7 without vote [agenda item 41 (a)].

**Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development**

**The General Assembly.**

**Recalling** its resolution 46/131 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

**Also recalling** its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/122 of 23 December 1994 on the New Agenda, resolution 51/32 of 6 December 1996 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda and resolution 55/216 of 21 December 2000, in which it reaffirmed its decision to conduct in 2002 the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda,

**Further recalling** its resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to conduct, during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as well as on proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, and resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002, by which it decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should meet in substantive session for three working days, from 24 to 26 September 2002.

**Mindful** of its resolution 56/31 of 15 August 2002, by which it decided on the organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,

**Bearing in mind** the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council, on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development,

**Cognizant** of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

**Having considered** the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

**Noting with satisfaction** the contribution made by individual Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee,

**Also noting with satisfaction** that the Group of Eight, at its summit meeting held at Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002, devoted part of its deliberations to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, which resulted in the adoption of a Group of Eight action plan for Africa,

### Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

**1. Welcomes** the report of the Secretary-General on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in particular the lessons learned about the New Agenda, as well as recommendations and proposals on the modalities for the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development;

**2. Takes note** of the report on the independent evaluation on the New Agenda;

**3. Expresses its disappointment** at the limited progress made in realizing the objectives of the New Agenda;

**4. Decides to bring the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to a close,** and endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, as decided by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka...
from 9 to 11 July 2001, should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa’s development;

II

Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

5. Welcomes the New Partnership for Africa’s Development as a programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples for peace and development;

6. Reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held on 16 September 2002, to consider how to support the New Partnership, and takes note of the deliberations that took place on that occasion;

7. Urges the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership;

8. Recognizes the importance and strongly encourages the involvement of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the New Partnership;

III

Action by African countries and organizations

9. Welcomes the commitment of African countries to integrate the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development into their national policies and development planning frameworks, to maintain full ownership and leadership in developing and utilizing such policies and frameworks, and to mobilize domestic resources in support of the New Partnership;

10. Also welcomes the commitment of African countries to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to take concrete measures to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

11. Recognizes the importance of establishing national focal points for the New Partnership within the governmental structures of African countries, with responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the New Partnership at the national level, serving as a repository of information, and fostering a coordinated response to the New Partnership by individual countries;

12. Emphasizes the need to build and strengthen human and institutional capacities at the national, subregional and regional levels in order effectively to implement the New Partnership in all its aspects, and the need to allocate resources to this end;

13. Encourages the further integration of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership into the programmes of the regional economic communities of Africa and other subregional and regional structures and organizations, as well as programmes in favour of the African least developed countries;

14. Also encourages efforts to raise awareness of the New Partnership and to involve all African stakeholders, namely Governments, the private sector and civil society, including women’s organizations as well as community-based organizations, in the implementation of the New Partnership;

15. Welcomes the commitment of African countries to promote and enhance the role of African women in all aspects of the implementation of the New Partnership and in achieving the objectives thereof;

IV

Action by the international community

16. Urges the developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries, as internationally agreed, to implement effectively their commitment on official development assistance to the least developed countries, as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels on 20 May 2001, and to commit a significant share of such assistance to African countries; encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively in helping to achieve development goals and targets; and underlines the importance of undertaking an examination of the means and time frames for achieving the goals and targets;

17. Stresses the need to find a durable solution to the problem of external indebtedness of the heavily indebted poor countries in Africa, including through debt cancellation and other arrangements, and in this regard also stresses the need to explore innovative mechanisms to address comprehensively the debt problem of low and middle-income African countries, bearing in mind that external debt relief can release resources that could be utilized in the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, taking into account initiatives that have been taken to reduce outstanding indebtedness and the need to pursue vigorously and expeditiously debt relief measures, including within the context of the Paris Club and London Club and other relevant forums;

18. Recognizes the essential role of trade as an engine for economic development in Africa, and in this regard calls for improved market access for African exports within the framework of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, without prejudging the outcome of the negotiations of the World Trade Organization, and also within the framework of preferential agreements, and in this regard calls upon developed countries to assist African countries in improving their capacity, including by the removal of supply-side constraints and the promotion of diversification, which is critical to enabling them to take full advantage of such opportunities, taking into account the need to provide market access for developing countries;

19. Calls upon developed countries that have not yet done so to work towards the objective of duty-free and
quota-free access for all exports of the least developed countries, as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

20. Also calls upon developed countries to encourage and facilitate investment by their private sectors in Africa, to help African countries to attract investments and promote policies conducive to attracting investment, to encourage and facilitate the transfer of the technology needed to African countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and to assist in building human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the New Partnership consistent with its priorities and objectives;

21. Further calls upon developed countries to channel financial, technical and other types of resources towards the priorities of the New Partnership, in particular infrastructural development, health services, education, water and agriculture, in accordance with the priorities determined by each African country, and to explore ways of generating new public and private innovative sources of finance for development purposes, provided that those sources do not unduly burden developing countries, particularly in Africa, and in this regard notes the proposal for the use of special drawing rights allocations for development purposes;

22. Recognizes the importance of South-South cooperation and the contribution that it can make to the implementation of the New Partnership, encourages in this regard other partners to support this type of cooperation, including, as appropriate, through triangular cooperation, and considers that South-South cooperation should be viewed not as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, the support provided by developed countries;

23. Calls upon the private sector and civil society outside Africa to participate in and contribute to the implementation of the New Partnership in all its aspects, including through effective partnerships between the public and private sectors;

24. Calls upon the United Nations system, within respective mandates, to align its activities in Africa with the priorities of the New Partnership, in accordance with the priorities determined by each African country, and urges the scaling up of resources for this purpose;

25. Also calls upon the United Nations system to enhance its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa’s development;

26. Urges the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New Partnership in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the New Partnership;

27. Welcomes the actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership, and in this regard urges the strengthening of this process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership;

28. Calls upon the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to strengthen further their existing coordination and programming mechanisms, in particular the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as a means of enhancing support to African countries in the implementation of the New Partnership and in support of national poverty reduction strategies and in particular, where appropriate, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;

29. Urges the United Nations system to work closely with the African Union and other regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations to ensure the implementation of the programmes and priorities of the New Partnership;

30. Encourages the ongoing efforts of the United Nations system to enhance further the simplification and harmonization of its planning, programming, disbursement and reporting procedures at the national, subregional and regional levels so as to ease the burden on the limited capacities of African countries;

31. Requests the United Nations system to assist in the implementation of the New Partnership through the provision of continuing support for the efforts of African countries in human and institutional capacity-building at the national, subregional and regional levels and the mobilization of financial resources;

32. Requests the multilateral financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the New Partnership;

33. Calls upon the United Nations system to strengthen its cooperation with the African Union and its Peace and Security Council and other African mechanisms in their efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts at the subregional and continental levels in order to ensure a solid basis for the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard welcomes the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa of the Security Council and of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict, within the framework of the Economic and Social Council;

34. Notes the decision of the Secretary-General to give to his Special Adviser on Africa the responsibility of coordinating and guiding the preparation of reports of the United Nations Secretariat related to Africa, and also notes the decision to transfer the resources of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries to the Adviser;

35. Underscores the need for a structure in the Secretariat in New York, at an appropriate level, which will review and report on support provided by the United Nations system and the international community for the New Partnership and on the coordinated implementation of outcomes of summit meetings and conferences as they relate to Africa, as well as coordinate global advocacy in support of the New Partnership, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to make proposals on the organization of such a structure within the framework of his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

36. Invites the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of the present resolution;
37. Decides to include a single, comprehensive item on the development of Africa, entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”, in the annual agenda of the General Assembly, beginning at its fifty-eighth session, and encourages the efforts being made towards clustering the items related to Africa’s development;

38. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the first consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the basis of input from Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and the other stakeholders in the New Partnership, such as the private sector and civil society.

UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa

CPC action. In accordance with a 2001 request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) [YUN 2001, p. 851], the Secretary-General submitted to the forty-second session (New York, 10 June–5 July and 9 July) [A/55/16] an April report [E/AC.5/2002/8], which sought to provide a more detailed examination of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa (UNSIA), following the final evaluation of the Initiative in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 851]. A detailed evaluation of clusters under UNSIA revealed that it had served as an appropriate framework for achieving better coordination among UN agencies working in Africa in 3 (education, governance and information technology for development) of the 13 priority areas. Limited success was recorded in other sectors. The report described lessons derived from UNSIA, which could improve UN coordination efforts in Africa. The report suggested that with the closure of the New Agenda (see p. 908) and the expected adoption of NEPAD as the framework for UN support to African development, it would not be necessary to maintain UNSIA as a separate UN initiative on African development and it should cease to exist. As for the future of UN coordination, the way forward was for the UN system to unite in supporting NEPAD.

Following consideration of the Secretary-General’s report, CPC emphasized the importance of applying the lessons learned from UNSIA to the implementation of NEPAD. It noted that the UN system, through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, had adopted a three-pronged policy towards NEPAD, stressing the need for the UN system to exercise restraint in launching new initiatives, to unite in supporting African-owned and Africa-led initiatives and to promote inter-agency coordination. Underlining the need for agencies and organizations of the UN system to support NEPAD, CPC recommended that the UN system articulate a strategic operational framework for supporting its implementation. The framework should identify problems, set goals, determine the respective roles of organizations, indicate resource requirements and introduce performance indicators. The Committee stated that it should be involved in monitoring the framework and recommended that the Secretary-General report in 2003 on the future engagement of the UN system with NEPAD.

Angola

The Secretary-General’s July report to the Security Council on Angola [S/2002/834] stated that the cessation of hostilities (see p. 219) had markedly improved humanitarian access. However, the intensification of military activity during the war’s final stages had resulted in massive displacements and extreme human suffering, with at least 3 million people requiring emergency assistance. To cope with the needs of the displaced population and other vulnerable groups, UN agencies, in collaboration with NGOs and international organizations, had agreed on a common approach aimed at stabilizing the conditions of the most acutely affected populations, while simultaneously undertaking community-based initiatives to facilitate the return, resettlement and reintegration of displaced populations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 59], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/102 [draft: A/57/L.41 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions in which it called upon the international community to continue to render material, technical and financial assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola,

Recalling also that the Security Council, in resolution 922(1994) of 31 May 1994 and in subsequent resolutions adopted as from 2001, the President of the Security Council, in statements on Angola, and the General Assembly, in all of its resolutions on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola, have, inter alia, called upon the international community to provide economic assistance to Angola,

Noting that the signing by the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola of the Memorandum of Understanding additional to the Lusaka Protocol on 4 April 2002 resulted in the cessation of all hostilities and created unprecedented conditions for the resolution of all pending questions in respect of the Lusaka Protocol and full compliance with its provisions,

Bearing in mind that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating the conditions for long-term development and poverty re-
duction in Angola lies with the Government of Angola, together with, where appropriate, the participation of the international community.

Taking into account the initiatives taken by the Government of Angola to allocate the human, material and financial resources to improve the social and economic situation of the population and to address the humanitarian situation, and stressing the need to allocate more means to that end, with the cooperation of the international community,

Bearing in mind that the measures taken by the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation towards reconstruction, rehabilitation, social and economic stabilization, including the emergency measures, need to be strengthened in order to improve the precarious situation of some 4 million internally displaced people and other vulnerable groups, some 1.54 million of whom have critical food needs,

Notes the urgent need to address as well as to increase national efforts and international support for humanitarian mine-action activities, the resettlement of internally displaced persons and the return of refugees, and the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants, as well as the reintegration of other vulnerable groups, so as to allow the country to tackle the social, economic and humanitarian crisis,

Recalling the first Round-Table Conference of Donors, held in Brussels from 25 to 27 September 1995, with a view to mobilizing funds for the Community Rehabilitation and National Reconciliation Programme and supporting the efforts made by the Government of Angola,

Welcoming the efforts made by donors and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to provide humanitarian, economic and financial assistance to Angola,

Welcoming also the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Angola, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1433(2002) of 15 August 2002,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the situation in Angola,

Noting the logistical difficulties in the distribution of relief supplies to vulnerable populations, and urging the Government of Angola to ensure that humanitarian donations are cleared through the customs services in an expeditious manner,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary General to the Security Council on the situation in Angola;

2. Welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding additional to the Lusaka Protocol, which ended hostilities in the country and created unprecedented conditions for the reestablishment and consolidation of peace in Angola;

3. Calls upon the Government of Angola to continue to contribute to and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to continue to work towards ensuring the maintenance of the peace and national security that are so necessary for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and economic stabilization of the country, and encourages the Government to continue to allocate the necessary financial resources for the achievement of these objectives;

4. Appeals to Member States and in particular the donor community to support the projects foreseen in the mid-term review of the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for 2002, estimated at 171,057,107 United States dollars, which are to be completed between September and December 2002 in order to assist, inter alia, the 4 million internally displaced people, 1.54 million of whom have critical food needs, and to be especially generous in their support for the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for 2003;

5. Notes the commitment of the Government of Angola towards improving transparency and accountability in the management of public resources, and encourages the Government to increase its efforts to that end;

6. Requests all countries and international, regional and subregional financial institutions to provide their support to the Government of Angola, with a view to alleviating the humanitarian situation, consolidating peace, democracy and economic stability throughout the country, and permitting the successful implementation of the economic development programmes of the Government;

7. Welcomes the assistance provided by the Government of Angola and the international community to the quartering areas, and reiterates the importance of continuing to assist the demobilized population and their families, many of whom continue to require life-saving assistance;

8. Urges the Government of Angola to strengthen public administration, including the National Commission for Social and Productive Reintegration of the Displaced and Demobilized, to develop further a comprehensive resettlement and reintegration strategy, in cooperation with the international community, and to continue to implement its urban and rural poverty alleviation programmes, with a view towards eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development;

9. Requests the Government of Angola, the United Nations and the international financial institutions to take all necessary steps for the preparation and successful organization of an international donors conference in order to strengthen humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, including special economic assistance;

10. Expresses its appreciation to the international community, the United Nations system, funds and programmes, and the governmental and non-governmental organizations that are participating in humanitarian assistance programmes in Angola, including in mine-action activities, and appeals for their continued contribution in a manner complementary to that of the Government to humanitarian mine-action activities;

11. Urges the Government of Angola to take the lead in mobilizing funding for the expansion of programmes for humanitarian mine-action activities, and encourages international donors to contribute to these efforts;

12. Expresses its profound gratitude to donors and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for the substantial assistance provided to Angola for the successful implementation of its economic development programme;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.
Democratic Republic of the Congo

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/100 [YUN 2001, p. 852], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/57/577], described economic revival and reconstruction assistance provided by the UN system to the DRC in the context of the country’s political and economic situation.

Against a background of localized conflicts and the after-effects of earlier clashes (see p. 102), the UN system continued humanitarian interventions, though assistance was hindered by the country’s size, population dispersal and lack of statistical data. By developing a capacity for immediate response based on strategies of presence and mobility, UN organizations had been able to bring humanitarian workers into contact with the target populations and to underpin micro-strategies for ending the crisis. Those activities had been carried out in conjunction with structural responses geared to economic recovery and reconstruction. The Secretary-General invited development partners to support the transitional institutions planned under a comprehensive political agreement in order to lay the foundations for good governance. He encouraged the Government to implement economic reforms and the international community to support the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for ex-combatants. The international community was also asked to support the World Bank trust fund to settle arrears on the Congolese debt.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/146 [draft: A/57/ L.63/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling also all resolutions of the Security Council and the statements by its President regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling further the Ceasefire Agreement signed in Lusaka and the Kampala disengagement plan, the obligations of all signatories to those agreements and the obligations deriving from all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1304(2000) of 16 June 2000,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States in the region,

Alarmed at the plight of the civilian population throughout the country, and calling for its protection,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating humanitarian, economic and social situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular in eastern Congo, and at the effect of the continued fighting on the inhabitants of the country, especially women and children,

Deeply concerned at the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, in particular among women and girls, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Expressing its deep concern at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian and human rights situations and at the findings contained in the reports on the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in this regard,

Gravely concerned at the negative impact of war on the promotion of sustainable development in the Great Lakes Region,

Deeply concerned at the continued extensive destruction of life and property, as well as the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosts thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries, which places a great burden on its limited resources, and expressing the hope that conditions will be created that will facilitate a safe and voluntary return of refugees,

Recalling that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and aggravated by the ongoing conflict,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and security and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy and in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Welcomes the signature by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda of the Peace Agreement in Pretoria on 30 July 2002 and the signature by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Uganda of the Luanda Agreement on 6 September 2002, and also welcomes the efforts of the Governments of South Africa and Angola, and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in facilitating the adoption of these agreements;
3. Urges all parties concerned in the region to cease military activities and to cease any support for armed groups;
4. Welcomes the decision taken by all foreign parties fully to withdraw their forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the progress made in the implementation of those processes, stresses the importance of the withdrawals being completed in a transparent, orderly and verified manner, and calls upon the signatories to these agreements to implement them fully;
5. Urges all parties concerned in the region to cease any recruitment, training and use of child soldiers, welcomes the initial steps taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to demobilize and reintegrate child soldiers, and urges the Govern-
ment and all parties to continue their efforts in this regard;

6. Welcomes the commitment of the Congolese parties to achieve an inclusive agreement on the political transition, stresses the importance of such an agreement to the wider peace process, and calls upon all Congolese parties to cooperate actively with a view to the speedy conclusion of such an agreement which is needed for improved humanitarian access;

7. Stresses that a successful conclusion to the peace process and the resumption of economic activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are inextricably linked, and underlines the need for further international economic assistance in this regard;

8. Expresses its deep concern at the worsening humanitarian situation throughout the country and the very high number of internally displaced persons in the eastern part and, in particular, in the Ituri region, and urges all parties to avoid further population displacement and to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin;

9. Also expresses its deep concern especially at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Ituri region, calls upon all Congolese parties on the ground to cooperate fully within the Ituri Pacification Commission with a view to reaching an agreement promptly; and calls upon all States in the region to bring their influence to bear on the Congolese parties so that this agreement can be reached as soon as possible;

10. Welcomes the adoption of new coordination mechanisms aimed at ensuring a coherent and effective response to the multifaceted humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

11. Urges compliance with international human rights law, and urges all parties to respect international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional Protocols thereto, of 1977;

12. Urges all parties to respect fully international humanitarian law so as to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;

13. Calls for the reopening of the Kisangani-Kindu rail and river link in order to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as access for humanitarian personnel;

14. Calls upon the international community to increase its support for humanitarian relief activities within the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

15. Invites Governments to continue to provide support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

16. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to consult urgently with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General, on ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict, in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions;

(b) To continue to consult with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General, on ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict, in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions;

(c) To keep under review the economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the country to enable it to meet its urgent needs in terms of economic recovery and reconstruction;

(d) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.

Liberia

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/176 [YUN 2000, p. 863], the Secretary-General, in an August report [A/57/301], outlined the security, political, economic and humanitarian developments in Liberia and highlighted UN collaborative activities regarding the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia in 2001.

The Secretary-General stated that the gains made in the recovery and resettlement of displaced people and refugees between 1997 and 2000 were being reversed by a new humanitarian crisis. Fighting between government forces and dissidents had spread to five counties causing nationwide insecurity and significant displacement of population (see p. 165). An estimated 100,000 internally displaced persons were receiving humanitarian assistance. UN agencies and the UN Peace-building Support Office in Liberia continued to provide humanitarian assistance and to support the consolidation of the peace process and the transition from relief to sustainable recovery. The Secretary-General, in a series of recommendations to the Assembly, emphasized the need for all parties to the conflict to ensure civilian protection, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and guarantee the safety of humanitarian workers. He called on the international community to strengthen its commitment to respond to the humanitarian and development needs of the Liberian people and to encourage the Government to initiate institutional reforms that would promote greater transparency in the management of the economy, strengthen democratic institutions by reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights, and establish inclusive processes for reconciliation and confidence-building. He recommended that the Assembly call for further support for the humanitarian needs and the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Liberia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/151 [draft: A/57/1.62 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].
Humanitarian and special economic assistance

Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

The General Assembly,
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, Commending the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations for their collaborative efforts with the Government of Liberia in its peace-building objectives,
Emphasizing its great concern over the grave humanitarian and security situation prevailing in Liberia, which holds serious implications for security in the subregion,
1. Expresses its gratitude to the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Economic Community of West African States and non-governmental organizations for their valuable support in the provision of humanitarian assistance and their adoption of a comprehensive approach to peace-building in Liberia and the subregion;
2. Calls upon all parties involved in the ongoing conflict to respect fully the provisions of international humanitarian law and, in this regard, to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of Liberia and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;
3. Expresses its gratitude to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance and support for the peace-building process in Liberia, and urges that such assistance be continued;
4. Invites all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance, as appropriate, to Liberia to facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of peace, regional security and socio-economic development;
5. Urges the Government of Liberia to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of socio-economic development and a culture of sustained peace in the country, including a commitment to upholding the rule of law, national reconciliation and human rights, establishing inclusive processes that will ensure free and fair presidential and general elections in October 2003 and encourage maximum participation, to contribute to reducing tension and promoting sustainable and peaceful political development in the subregion;
6. Urges the Government of Liberia, the United Nations system and all States to strengthen their commitment in responding to the humanitarian needs of the Liberian people;
7. Renews its appeal to the Government of Liberia to cooperate with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for reconstruction and, and stresses the need for the Government of Liberia to assist and protect the civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, regardless of their origin;
8. Commends the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to mobilize international assistance for the development and reconstruction of Liberia, and requests him to continue his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help in the reconstruction and development of Liberia, including the return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and demobilized soldiers;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
10. Decides to consider at its fifty-ninth session the question of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

Mozambique

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/167 [YUN 2000, p. 859], the Secretary-General, in a June report [A/57/97-E/2002/76], described follow-up initiatives undertaken in Mozambique in response to floods in 2000, preparation for and response to floods in 2001, and other UN assistance initiatives in support of the Government.

The Secretary-General said the Government and the United Nations and its partners assisted in coordination, resource mobilization and delivery of goods and services in the wake of severe cyclones and flooding and thus were able to intervene effectively to reduce the loss of life. While future improvements were needed, lessons learned allowed for better-coordinated response initiatives to be mainstreamed into United Nations and partner planning. The Government-managed reconstruction programme had demonstrated positive results; and while rehabilitation and resettlement efforts were still under way, national and regional assessment and monitoring continued. UN assistance had been augmented through the completion of the 2000 common country assessment, which analysed the root causes of poverty in Mozambique and resulted in the 2002-2006 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). UN agency programmes were derived from UNDAF; and UN assistance, together with that of its partners, aimed to help achieve national Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty and decrease the vulnerability of Mozambican citizens.

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General’s report (decision 2002/292).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 59], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/104 [draft: A/57/L.46 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].
Recognizing the need to foster the establishment of national mine action capacity with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to deal more effectively with the adverse effects of those weapons within the framework of the efforts for national reconstruction, 

Recalling also its resolution 54/96 of 10 March 2000 on assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods, 

Deeply concerned at the unprecedented floods in Mozambique in 2000 and 2001, which have resulted in the tragic loss of human lives, extensive destruction of property and infrastructure and the dislodging and scattering of landmines, 

Deeply concerned also at the severe drought affecting Mozambique and other countries of southern Africa, resulting in famine and poverty, 

Deeply concerned further at the impact of natural disasters on the economic, social and humanitarian situation in Mozambique and at the aggravating effects of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, 

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute one of the major problems for the development of Mozambique, 

Aware that, to prevent and manage natural disasters, strategies at the local, national and regional levels are required, in addition to international assistance, 

Bearing in mind the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001, and the mutual commitments entered into on that occasion, 

Noting with appreciation the mobilization and allocation of resources by States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist national efforts, 

Noting with satisfaction the support by the international community of the post-emergency reconstruction programme presented by the Government of Mozambique, 

Taking note of the donor conferences held in Rome on 3 and 4 May 2000 and in Maputo on 12 and 13 July 2001, with the aim of mobilizing financial resources for the reconstruction of the socio-economic infrastructure and assistance to the people affected by the floods, 

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 

2. Welcomes the positive role of the Government of Mozambique in the relief operations, in particular the close coordination between United Nations and Government efforts; 

3. Also welcomes the assistance rendered to Mozambique by various States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and private individuals and groups to support national development efforts and post-emergency reconstruction programmes; 

4. Further welcomes the ten years of peace, stability, economic growth and development in Mozambique, as well as the progress made in the consolidation of lasting peace and tranquillity, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in the country; 

5. Notes the importance of international assistance for the reconstruction and development programmes in Mozambique, welcomes the pledges made by the development partners for those programmes, expresses its gratitude to the development partners that have already disbursed the pledged funds, and urges others to speed up the process; 

6. Urges the international community to render its assistance to the drought victims and for setting up national, subregional, regional and international disaster prevention, preparedness and management mechanisms, including early warning systems; 

7. Also urges the international community to continue supporting the efforts of the Government to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic; 

8. Requests the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue to mobilize and coordinate, with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Mozambique:

(a) Humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system; 

(b) International assistance for the national reconstruction and development of Mozambique; 

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it, for consideration at its fifty-ninth session, under the item on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session in 2004, on the implementation of the present resolution.

**African countries emerging from conflict**

**Economic and Social Council consideration.** The coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council [A/57/3/Rev.1], in July, considered the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict [E/2002/12 & Corr.1]. The proposal to create such a group, which would assess humanitarian and economic needs and elaborate a long-term programme for
African countries emerging from conflict, was made by the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 177] and was endorsed in General Assembly resolution 55/217 [ibid.]. The Secretary-General suggested that, following a review of African countries emerging from conflict and of the existing arrangements and initiatives for meeting their humanitarian, reconstruction and development needs, and taking into account the gaps and the added value that the Council could provide as an intergovernmental body, the Council would, at the request of the country concerned, decide on setting up a country-specific advisory group. The group, which would be established for a limited time, would be mandated to obtain information from relevant authorities, assess humanitarian and economic needs and prepare a long-term programme of support, provide advice on how to ensure the adequacy and coordination of assistance from the international community and recommend its findings for adoption by the Council and for consideration in other forums. It was recommended that the Council endorse the Secretary-General’s proposals regarding the establishment of the group.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**


**Ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict**

**The Economic and Social Council**

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, which was submitted to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Recalling also paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 55/27 of 21 December 2000 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to consider the creation of an ad hoc advisory group on countries emerging from conflict with a view to assessing their humanitarian and economic needs and elaborating a long-term programme of support for implementation that begins with the integration of relief into development,

Recalling further the ministerial declaration on the role of the United Nations in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2001, and section VII on meeting the special needs of Africa of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Taking into account the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, which was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001, and looking forward to the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which is scheduled for September 2002,

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Economic and Social Council,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict;

2. Decides to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, a limited but flexible and representative ad hoc advisory group at the ambassadorial level, in consultation with all regional groups and the national authorities of the country concerned, drawn from the membership of the Economic and Social Council and its observer States, including representation from the countries concerned, and in so doing to take into account the need to include countries that can make a positive contribution to the objectives of such a group;

3. Also decides that such an ad hoc advisory group is to examine the humanitarian and economic needs of the country concerned; review relevant programmes of support and prepare recommendations for a long-term programme of support, based on its development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development into a comprehensive approach to peace and stability; and provide advice on how to ensure that the assistance of the international community in supporting the country concerned is adequate, coherent, well-coordinated and effective and promotes synergy;

4. Further decides that in order to carry out its work such an ad hoc advisory group should consult with the authorities of the country concerned and, as both deem necessary, with representatives of relevant national, subregional, regional and international organizations and other actors, as appropriate, according to the rules of procedure and relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, and should make recommendations to the Council for consideration and forwarding to other appropriate and relevant settings;

5. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Group, as well as other relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to assist such an ad hoc advisory group in accomplishing its mandate, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to cooperate to that end;

6. Urges such an ad hoc advisory group to make maximum use of existing mechanisms and coordination structures, as well as intergovernmentally approved and other relevant documentation;

7. Encourages close cooperation between such an ad hoc advisory group and the Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa of the Security Council in the areas related to the fulfilment of the mandate of such an ad hoc advisory group;

8. Invites multilateral institutions, in particular the African Development Bank, the African Union and African subregional organizations, as well as other relevant actors, subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 above, to cooperate fully with such an ad hoc advisory group, upon its request;
9. Encourages all States Members of the United Nations, particularly donor countries, to contribute to the work of such an ad hoc advisory group;

10. Decides to undertake an assessment of lessons learned based on the initial experience of such ad hoc advisory groups, no later than at its substantive session of 2004.

Guinea-Bissau

By a 26 July note verbale [E/2002/83], Guinea-Bissau requested the Council President to set up an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict regarding Guinea-Bissau.

By decision 2002/302 of 4 October, the Council entrusted its President with holding consultations regarding the modalities for establishing an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict: Guinea-Bissau, under the terms of Council resolution 2002/1.

On 25 October, the Council established an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau to examine the country’s humanitarian and economic needs, review support programmes and prepare recommendations for a long-term programme of support. It appointed the group’s chairperson and members and asked it to report to the Council by mid-January 2003 (decision 2002/304).

Other economic assistance

Central America

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/224 [YUN 2001, p. 241], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/57/384], described the activities of the UN system in Central America. He stated that the region’s environmental fragility had been demonstrated by a series of natural disasters, among them hurricane Mitch in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 876], an earthquake in El Salvador in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 868] and hurricane Michelle, which caused severe flooding and mudslides in Honduras and Nicaragua in 2001. In the aftermath of hurricane Mitch, the Central American Governments agreed that the overriding goal of the reconstruction and transformation of the region had to be the reduction of ecological vulnerability. Towards that end, several initiatives were taken under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Central American Integration System, the Pueblo-Panama Plan and the Meso-American Biological Corridor.

Throughout the region, UN system activities were oriented by the UNDAF and the common country assessment, which served to harmonize and synchronize both the approach and the programming of all agencies. In Nicaragua, the country team supported a poverty reduction strategy and offered some $40 million for projects in 2001; UNDP focused on the promotion of democratic governance and the provision of expertise and resources to the transition task force for the incoming Administration. In Honduras, considered the epicentre of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Latin America, the Government, together with UNDP, took significant steps to fight the disease. Also in Honduras, the UN system supported the Democracy Trust Fund, which, with the National Forum on Convergence, succeeded in securing several ground-breaking agreements between political parties and civil society. UNDP was working with public and civil society institutions in Guatemala towards the elaboration of a comprehensive rural development policy and on a nationwide land survey. Given the deteriorating economic situation in Guatemala, the UN system continued to implement the strategy on poverty reduction and human development. The World Food Programme had stepped up food deliveries, as growing child malnutrition and food shortages caused by drought persisted in parts of the country.

The Secretary-General called on the Central American Governments and the donor community to take environmental concerns into account in all their development objectives and urged Governments to continue constructive efforts to enhance regional economic cooperation in order to improve the financial outlook for the region as a whole.

In resolution 57/160 of 16 December (see p. 241), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to support the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly their efforts to consolidate democracy through the promotion of integration and the implementation of the comprehensive sustainable development programme, emphasizing, among other things, the potential repercussions of natural disasters on the vulnerable economies and political systems of the region, and to report in 2003 on the resolution’s implementation.

East Timor/Timor-Leste

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/104 [YUN 2001, p. 841], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/57/335] describing assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development in East Timor, which attained independence on 20 May 2002 (see p. 315) and subsequently became Timor-Leste, and outlining the developments in the repatriation of refugees and the reconciliation process.
The Secretary-General stated that, since the beginning of 2001, the humanitarian emergency had passed and assistance for national capacity-building in health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, child rights and protection, security, law and order, and justice was being provided for the longer-term development challenges of an independent Timor-Leste. Steady progress was made in restoring essential services (power, water, roads, housing, transport, ports and civil aviation) and support was provided to projects and programmes in the sectors of poverty reduction, community development, infrastructure rehabilitation, governance, education and health. Nevertheless, more than 40 per cent of East Timorese continued to live in absolute poverty. In addition, there was a grave shortage of qualified and experienced East Timorese across all areas of government activity, the private sector and civil society. The Secretary-General encouraged Member States to continue to support Timor-Leste and to assist it along its development path to self-reliance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 59], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/105 (draft: A/57/L.47 & Add.1) without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for Timor-Leste

The General Assembly,
Welcoming the independence of Timor-Leste on 20 May 2002, and commending its people and its leadership for achieving independence through peaceful and democratic means,
Recalling all of its relevant resolutions on the situation in Timor-Leste,
Recalling with satisfaction its resolution 57/3 of 27 September 2002 on the admission of Timor-Leste to membership in the United Nations,
Recalling all of the relevant Security Council resolutions and decisions on the situation in Timor-Leste, in particular resolution H26(2002) of 17 May 2002, which established the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor,
Acknowledging the crucial role of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in assisting the people of Timor-Leste in the transition towards independence,
Recognizing the essential role played by the international community, including the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, in supporting the nation-building process of Timor-Leste leading towards independence,
Acknowledging the progress made in the transition from relief and rehabilitation to development in Timor-Leste, while noting continuing vulnerabilities, including the need to strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of the Government of Timor-Leste for addressing humanitarian emergencies, and the significant challenges of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, in particular in the initial years of independence,
Emphasizing the need for continued international assistance to support the development of Timor-Leste in, inter alia, the education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, judicial, public administration and law enforcement sectors,
Welcoming the efforts of the Government of Indonesia and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees of Timor-Leste in the province of East Nusa Tenggara, West Timor, in facilitating their return to and reintegration in Timor-Leste or in assisting with their local integration and resettlement, as appropriate, in Indonesia,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Also welcomes the commitment of the international community to meet the external requirements for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development activities for Timor-Leste;
3. Urges the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to continue to support the Government and people of Timor-Leste in their endeavours towards self-sustainable nation-building and in facing the remaining vulnerabilities and challenges, such as nationwide capacity-building in all sectors, national reconciliation and the return of refugees to Timor-Leste and sustainable development;
4. Welcomes, in this regard, the adoption of the first national development plan of Timor-Leste on 6 May 2002, which was the result of a participatory process and reflects the commitment of the Government of Timor-Leste to develop sustainable basic services;
5. Acknowledges that a transparent, effective and functioning democratic governmental administration is crucial to fostering a stable and secure social, economic and political environment in Timor-Leste, and in this regard urges the international community to continue to support efforts aimed at institution-building and the training of civil servants, in particular in the areas of public finances and senior management and in the development and maintenance of central and local administrative systems of government;
6. Also acknowledges the need to expedite the development of the justice sector of Timor-Leste, and in this regard urges further international support in the areas of law enforcement, the judiciary and the prison system;
7. Welcomes the continuing response of the international community to the need for food aid, and calls upon the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to assist Timor-Leste in ensuring sustainable development in the areas of agriculture, livestock and fisheries;
8. Takes note with appreciation of the progress made in rehabilitating infrastructure, and recommends that outstanding infrastructure needs remain a focus of international assistance in such areas as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of public buildings, educational facilities, roads and public services, including water and sanitation and the supply of electricity;
9. Commends the continuous international response in providing health services to the general population, including the early deployment of immunization and disease prevention programmes and reproductive health-care and child nutrition programmes, while recognizing the need for further assistance to rebuild hospitals, train health-care professionals and enhance capacity-building to meet the challenges to public health posed by such diseases as tuberculosis, malaria and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;

10. Welcomes the progress made in the rehabilitation of schools, the supply and distribution of educational materials and teacher training, while emphasizing the need for capacity-building, particularly in the area of secondary and higher education, and for continued attention to the rehabilitation needs, including psychosocial support, of children affected by violence;

11. Also welcomes the growing participation of the women of Timor-Leste in all aspects of society, and encourages further efforts to address gender issues, including the needs for research, services and appropriate legislation in order to combat domestic violence and other gender-related crimes;

12. Further welcomes the continuing efforts made by the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation to facilitate national reconciliation and the return of refugees to Timor-Leste;

13. Welcomes the decision by the United Nations Development Programme to start disbursing funds from the Special Fund established for former employees and pensioners of the Government of Indonesia in East Timor, also welcomes the financial commitments and contributions made by the international community and the Government of Indonesia to it, and encourages them to consider increasing their contributions;

14. Also welcomes the establishment by Timor-Leste and Indonesia of the Joint Ministerial Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, which will facilitate consultation and cooperation between the two countries in all areas of common interest;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-eighth session.

Haiti

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/25 [YUN 2001, p. 856], the Secretary-General submitted a May report [E/2002/56] on progress achieved in elaborating a long-term programme of support for Haiti and on ways to implement it. The report provided an overview of the political and economic situation in Haiti since 2001 (see p. 249).

The Secretary-General observed that the UN resident agencies had completed the common country assessment and the UNDAF in Haiti, which were important tools for any long-term development plan. However, the political situation and the continued decline of ODA to Haiti prevented any significant step forward in the process. The consideration of a long-term programme of support by international development partners depended on the outcome of an OAS initiative to bring to an end the ongoing political crisis. The Secretary-General recommended that the Council consider whether it should continue to be kept informed regularly of progress achieved in the formulation of a long-term support programme to Haiti or decide to subordinate its consideration of the matter to positive developments in the country’s political situation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2002/22 [draft: E/2002/L.17] without vote [agenda item 7(d)].

1. **Long-term programme of support for Haiti**

The Economic and Social Council,


Taking note of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the long-term programme of support for Haiti,

Welcoming the efforts of the Organization of American States, including its Special Mission to Haiti, and of the Caribbean Community, to mediate dialogue and promote reconciliation in order to strengthen the political environment in Haiti necessary for the promotion of economic and social development and the alleviation of poverty,

Noting the most recent report of the United Nations independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, and encouraging the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Human Rights in that regard,

1. Requests that the Secretary-General, in coordination with the United Nations resident coordinator in Haiti, report on progress achieved in implementing a long-term programme of support for Haiti, and that the report be prepared for the Economic and Social Council on the basis of developments in Haiti;

2. Decides to include the item entitled “Long-term programme of support for Haiti” in the agenda of its substantive session of 2003.

Kazakhstan

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/44 [YUN 2000, p. 869], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/57/256] on international cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region, a former nuclear testing site in Kazakhstan.

The Secretary-General stated that, although the international donor community gave significant attention to the region’s problems and delivered substantial humanitarian and development assistance to the affected population, the scale and consequences of the nuclear testing were
enormous. The population remained exceptionally vulnerable to the economic, social and ecological challenges of the ongoing transition process. Initiatives of the Government, complemented by support from donors, would help the affected population.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 25 November [meeting 59], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/101 [draft: A/57/L.33 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

**International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/14 of 16 November 1998 and 55/44 of 27 November 2000,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to its consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Conscious that the international community should pay due attention to the issue of the human, ecological and socio-economic dimensions of the situation in the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing the need to coordinate national and international efforts aimed at the rehabilitation of the health of the affected population and the environment in this region,

Bearing in mind the need for know-how in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental problems in the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking into consideration the results of the international conference on the problems of the Semipalatinsk region, held in Tokyo in 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Also taking into consideration the outcome of the international conference entitled “The Twenty-first Century: Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”, held in Almaty on 29 and 30 August 2001, which confirmed the necessity of urgent measures to be taken to improve the severe ecological and economic situation in the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing the contribution of different organizations of the United Nations system, donor States, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to humanitarian assistance and the implementation of the projects aimed at the rehabilitation of the region,

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and the information about the measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems and to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

Stresses the need for continuing international attention and extra efforts in solving problems with regard to the Semipalatinsk region and its population;

3. **Urges** the international community to provide assistance in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population in the Semipalatinsk region;

4. **Invites** all States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. **Invites** all Member States, in particular donor States, relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, to participate in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region;

6. **Invites** the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. **Calls upon** the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, under a separate sub-item, on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

**Third States affected by sanctions**

In a May note [E/2002/65], submitted in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/32 [YUN 2000, p. 879] and General Assembly resolution 56/87 [YUN 2000, p. 1247], the Secretary-General drew attention to his 2001 report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions [ibid., p. 1245].

On 23 July, the Council took note of the Secretary-General’s 2001 report and of his note (decision 2002/232).

**Disaster relief**

In 2002, a series of natural disasters and environmental emergencies produced widespread suffering and destruction in many countries. More than 500 disasters were reported in 2002, with more than 10,000 people killed, 600 million people affected, $55 billion in total damages and $13 billion in insured losses.

In Africa, the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in the DRC in January destroyed 13 per cent of the town of Goma, displacing the majority of its
400,000 residents. In Ethiopia, more than 6 million drought-affected people were in need of assistance (see p. 593). Kenya experienced floods and Malawi experienced both floods and drought.

East and South-East Asia experienced several major disasters. In February, torrential rains caused severe floods in Indonesia. Heavy rainfalls in central and southern China in June caused flash floods and landslides; more flooding from a typhoon and heavy rainfalls followed in August, bringing the number of casualties to more than 1,500. In September, the Republic of Korea was hit by typhoon Rusa. South-East Asian countries, notably Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, also suffered from severe floods. Cambodia was also affected by a severe drought, reportedly the worst in the last two decades.

In the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea, the most populous country in the region and the most disaster-prone, experienced several natural disasters. A large landslide struck two hamlets in Morobe in April; in August, the Pago volcano erupted, forcing resettlement of over 13,000 people; and a strong earthquake in September rendered 4,400 people homeless in East Sepik.

In South Asia, Bangladesh was affected by a tropical storm in May and floods in July. India required assistance for flooding in July and drought in August. An earthquake in Pakistan and drought in Sri Lanka also afflicted the region.

In Europe, Georgia suffered an earthquake and flooding, in addition to successive droughts over the preceding two years. Albania and the Czech Republic experienced floods.

In Western Asia, Afghanistan experienced earthquakes in March/April and the Syrian Arab Republic suffered from floods following the collapse of a dam in June. An earthquake hit Turkey in February.

The Caribbean region was hit by tropical storms Isidore and Lili, both in September; Haiti witnessed floods, as did Jamaica. In Latin America, Bolivia experienced damage from floods, forest fires and snowstorms, as did Costa Rica from floods; Ecuador from floods and a volcanic eruption; Honduras from rains; and Peru from floods and a snowstorm.

During the year, OCHA mobilized and coordinated assistance to 67 natural disasters for a total of $263 million.

International cooperation

Reports of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 56/99 [YUN 2000, p. 858], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on emergency response to disasters [A/57/320]. Noting the 2001 protocol signed by Greece and Turkey to establish a joint standby disaster response unit, following the devastating earthquakes in both countries in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 855], he stated that the standby unit would work closely with OCHA to ensure cooperation with international disaster response mechanisms. In order to further develop UN cooperation arrangements and to fulfil UN arrangements regarding coordination and mobilization of humanitarian emergency assistance, a memorandum of understanding between Greece, Turkey and the United Nations was being finalized. The two Governments and the United Nations were planning to participate in an international search and rescue exercise in Sicily, Italy, in March 2003.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 56/103 [YUN 2001, p. 859], the Secretary-General, in an October report [A/57/378], highlighted some of the natural disaster management efforts being undertaken by the UN system.

OCHA natural disaster response tools included the UN disaster assessment and coordination teams, the Military and Civil Defence Unit, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, for which OCHA acted as the secretariat, the regional disaster response advisers, which had opened offices in India and South Africa, the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (Brindisi, Italy) and the ReliefWeb web site. Regarding natural disaster reduction and mitigation, the Secretary-General stated that failure to incorporate vulnerability reduction measures in the post-disaster development phase constituted a sure basis for increased vulnerability. UNDP continued to reinforce its efforts to strengthen disaster reduction capacity in some 60 programme countries, including building local capacity for disaster reduction in Jamaica and Nicaragua, strengthening early warning capacity for Guatemala and Honduras and developing a national risk and disaster management system in Haiti. Other initiatives were undertaken in member countries of the Southern African Development Community, Albania, Iran, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, the Tisza River Basin (Hungary, Romania, Ukraine) and Uzbekistan; new programmes were being designed in Nepal and the Sudan. UNDP developed post-disaster recovery strategies and frameworks in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cuba, the DRC, El Salvador, Georgia, India, Iran, Peru and Senegal. In support of the disaster management efforts of the UN system and the international community, OCHA’s Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities continued to be expanded; a directory of advanced technologies for disaster response was being developed.
The Secretary-General concluded that there was a need to strengthen and further clarify areas of collaboration within and between organizations in order to ensure that a coherent system-wide approach to disaster management became the norm. He said the Assembly might wish to encourage Member States and the UN system to introduce vulnerability reduction measures into recovery plans; strengthen cooperation between Member States and the UN system to increase understanding among decision makers of the link between disaster reduction principles and longer-term development planning; support risk analysis and reduction measures in development planning at all levels; build upon the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (see p. 928) process to review disaster initiatives; and support UN system efforts to develop the directory of advanced technologies for disaster response.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/152 [draft: A/57/L.63 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (a)].

International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,


Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory, and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing also the responsibility of all States to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters,

Welcoming the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Stressing that national authorities need to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters through implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction so as to reduce risks to people, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

Welcoming the efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen the coordination of their activities in the field of disaster prevention, mitigation and management,

Emphasizing the importance of raising awareness among developing countries of the capacities existing at the national, regional and international levels that could be deployed to assist them,

Emphasizing also the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, including prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery and reconstruction, and of strengthening the response capacity of affected countries,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, with facilitation by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and in cooperation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, and in this context noting its resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 entitled "Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance."

Mindful of the effects that shortfalls in resources can have on the preparedness for and response to natural disasters,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled “International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development” and “Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations”;

2. Expresses its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. Calls upon all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, inter alia, by disaster prevention, including building regulations and appropriate land use, as well as disaster preparedness and capacity-building in disaster response and mitigation, and requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries, as appropriate, in this regard;

4. Stresses, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the provision of humanitarian assistance for all phases of a disaster, from relief and mitigation to development, including through the provision of adequate resources;

5. Also stresses that humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to resolution 46/182 and should be determined on the basis of the human dimension and needs arising out of the particular natural disasters;

6. Recognizes that economic growth and sustainable development contribute to improving the capacity of States to mitigate, respond to and prepare for natural disasters;
7. **Reaffirms** that disaster risk analysis and vulnerability reduction form an integral part of sustainable development strategies and need to be considered in development plans of all vulnerable countries and communities, including, where appropriate, in plans relating to the transition from relief to development, and also affirms that within such preventive strategies, disaster preparedness and early warning systems must be further strengthened at the country and regional levels, inter alia, through better coordination among relevant United Nations bodies and cooperation with Governments of affected countries and regional and other relevant organizations with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness of natural disaster response and reducing the impact of natural disasters, particularly in developing countries;

8. **Emphasizes** the importance of enhanced international cooperation, including with the United Nations and regional organizations, to assist developing countries in their efforts to build capacities to predict, prepare for and respond to natural disasters;

9. **Stresses** the need for partnership among Governments of the affected countries, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant humanitarian organizations and specialized companies to promote training to strengthen preparedness for and response to natural disasters;

10. **Also stresses** the need to promote the access to and transfer of technology related to early warning systems and to mitigation programmes to developing countries affected by natural disasters;

11. **Encourages** the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate;

12. **Also encourages** in such operations the sharing of geographical data, including remotely sensed images and geographic information system and global positioning system data among Governments, space agencies and relevant international humanitarian organizations, as appropriate, and also notes in that context initiatives such as those undertaken by the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and the Global Disaster Information Network;

13. **Stresses** that particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, regional and sub-regional capacities of developing countries for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, more efficiently and at lower cost;

14. **Welcomes** the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme to establish regional disaster reduction adviser positions, and encourages the further development of these initiatives in a coordinated and complementary manner in order to assist developing countries in capacity-building for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response;

15. **Encourages** further cooperation between the United Nations system and regional organizations in order to increase the capacity of these organizations to respond to natural disasters;

16. **Encourages** States that have not signed or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, Finland, on 18 June 1998, to consider doing so;

17. **Invites** the United Nations system to explore further the concept of transitional recovery teams for providing assistance for bridging relief assistance and development cooperation;

18. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in collaboration with relevant organizations and partners, to continue progress on compiling a directory of disaster mitigation capacity at the national, regional and international levels as well as the Directory of Advanced Technologies for Disaster Response as a new part of the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities;

19. **Invites** the Secretary-General to examine the overall situation with regard to the mobilization of resources for response to natural disasters and to consider concrete recommendations to improve the international response to natural disasters, as necessary, based on his examination, keeping in mind also the need to address any geographical and sectoral imbalances and shortfalls in such responses, where they exist, as well as the more effective use of national emergency response agencies, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

### Urban search and rescue assistance

On 16 December (meeting 75), the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/150 [draft: A/57/L.60 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 21 (a)].

### Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, and its resolutions 54/253 of 22 December 1999, 55/103 of 14 December 2000, 56/103 of 14 December 2001 and 56/195 of 21 December 2001, and recalling agreed con-

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,

Deeply concerned by the increasing number and scale of disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, as well as their long-term consequences, especially severe for developing countries,

Reaffirming that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and, in this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal by the affected country,

Reaffirming also that each State has the responsibility first and foremost to protect the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory and, hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing the responsibility of all States to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts in order to minimize the impact of disasters,

Noting the critical role played by local rescuers in natural disaster response as well as existing in-country capacities,

Emphasizing the importance of timely, coordinated and technically sound international assistance provided in close coordination with the receiving State, in particular in the field of urban search and rescue following earthquakes and other events resulting in structural collapse,

Noting with appreciation, in this respect, the important contribution made by international urban search and rescue teams in the aftermath of disasters, which has helped to reduce loss of life and human suffering,

Commending the work of the United Nations Disaster Assistance and Coordination teams in facilitating rapid need assessments and assisting Member States to organize the on-site coordination of international urban search and rescue operations,

Concerned at the procedural requirements applicable to the movement of foreign nationals and equipment to and within a country that may impinge on the timely acceptance, deployment to the disaster site and activities of international urban search and rescue teams,

Also concerned that an additional burden may be placed on the resources of the affected countries by those international urban search and rescue teams which are inadequately trained or equipped,

Noting the efforts made by Member States, facilitated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance,

Noting also that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is identifying the current state of international law relating to disaster response for a report to be submitted to States and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003, and emphasizing the need for intergovernmental oversight of this process, particularly with regard to its principles, scope and objectives,

Recognizing, in this regard, the Guidelines developed by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, as a flexible and helpful reference tool for disaster preparedness and response efforts,

1. Stresses the need to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, with the aim of contributing towards saving more human lives;

2. Encourages efforts aiming at the strengthening of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group and its regional groups, particularly through the participation in its activities of representatives from a larger number of countries;

3. Urges all States, consistent with their applicable measures relating to public safety and national security, to simplify or reduce, as appropriate, the customs and administrative procedures related to the entry, transit, stay and exit of international urban search and rescue teams and their equipment and materials, taking into account the Guidelines of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, particularly concerning timeliness of visas for the rescuers and the quarantining of their animals, the utilization of air space and the import of search and rescue and technical communications equipment, necessary drugs and other relevant materials;

4. Also urges all States to undertake measures to ensure the safety and security of international urban search and rescue teams operating in their territory;

5. Further urges all States that have the capacity to provide international urban search and rescue assistance to take the necessary measures to ensure that international urban search and rescue teams under their responsibility are deployed and operate in accordance with internationally developed standards as specified in the Guidelines of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, particularly concerning timely deployment, self-sufficiency, training, operating procedures and equipment, and cultural awareness;

6. Reaffirms the leadership role of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator in supporting the authorities of the affected State, upon their request, in coordinating multilateral assistance in the aftermath of disasters;

7. Encourages the strengthening of cooperation among States at the regional and subregional levels in the field of disaster preparedness and response, with particular respect to capacity-building at all levels;

8. Encourages Member States, with the facilitation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and in cooperation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, to continue efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, including the further development of common standards;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a comprehensive, updated report with recommendations on
progress in the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, taking into account the extent of utilization of the Guidelines of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group.

**International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/195 [YUN 2001, p. 865], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/90], described UN activities undertaken to implement the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), which was adopted by the programme forum of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000) in 1990 [YUN 1999, p. 859] and endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 54/219 [ibid., p. 861]. The Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and the ISDR secretariat served as the main mechanisms for the Strategy’s implementation by the UN system.

In 2001 and 2002, the Inter-Agency Task Force focused on topics ranging from drought to disaster reduction in the context of sustainable development and on developing ways of cross-collaboration among its working groups.

Under a renewed leadership, the ISDR secretariat developed its 2002-2003 work plan, which aimed at consolidating the Strategy as the global framework for coordinated action by international organizations, professional institutions and Governments in order to ensure that disaster reduction became part of mainstream sustainable development strategies and programmes and was reflected in international agendas and sectoral plans, and also to ensure that concepts related to disaster reduction were understood and applied by disaster-prone communities worldwide.

The report also described action taken by partner agencies and organizations to support the Strategy.

The Secretary-General concluded that implementation of ISDR’s programme was progressing satisfactorily and some positive results had been achieved regarding synergy among the disaster activities of the UN system and those in socio-economic and humanitarian areas. However, lack of response by the donor community to the ISDR secretariat’s financial requirements remained a serious concern. In the immediate future, the main focus of activities would be the work related to the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821), which should allow for creating linkages between disaster reduction and policies and practices aimed at achieving sustainable development, and the 2003-2004 process for the 10-year review in 2004 of the Yokohama (Japan) Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation [YUN 1994, p. 831]. The Secretary-General recommended support by Member States for the Strategy and for the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction. Agencies and UN system organizations, relevant intergovernmental organizations and NGOs should avail themselves of the programme for the Strategy as an enabling environment for enhancing coordination, synergy and collaboration. He suggested that the ISDR secretariat follow up on the recommendations arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development and play a role in implementing the commitments emerging from it. The secretariat should also begin a collaborative effort to review the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action to identify gaps and means of implementation that would chart the course of action for the forthcoming decade, while taking into account the World Summit outcome. The political profile and visibility of the Inter-Agency Task Force should be enhanced and the Task Force should avail itself of contributions stemming from associated forums, civil society and NGOs, professional, academic and scientific sectors and national platforms for disaster reduction; the secretariat should facilitate the establishment of such associated forums and ensure that they related to the work of the Task Force. The General Assembly should be informed in 2003 of progress made in implementing the Strategy.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/57/332/Add.2], adopted resolution 57/256 without vote [agenda item 87 (b)].

**International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

The General Assembly,


Emphasizing the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction, and stressing that continued interaction, cooperation and partnerships among the institutions concerned are considered essential to achieving jointly agreed objectives and priorities,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,
Recognizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recalling that the annual observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is on the second Wednesday of October,

Recalling also the results, including the lessons learned, of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, outlined in the Geneva mandate on disaster reduction and the strategy document entitled "A safer world in the twenty-first century: risk and disaster reduction",

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Stressing the need for Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in the field of natural disasters, in line with their respective skills and capacities, from prevention to early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction, inter alia through capacity-building at all levels, where appropriate within the framework for action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Stressing also the need for Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective synergies in the field of natural disasters,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

Recognizing also the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

2. Welcomes the memorandum of understanding signed between the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme, and encourages the secretariat to pursue the establishment of similar arrangements with other international organizations in order to improve synergies and clarify respective roles;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in reporting to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, to provide specific proposals to Member States for the implementation of the actions on this matter agreed to by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in its Plan of Implementation;

4. Decides to take a decision on how to conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action at its fifty-eighth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy, to plan and coordinate, in consultation with Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, the 2004 review of the Yokohama Strategy and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in this regard;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

7. Encourages the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

Also on 20 December, the Assembly decided to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability in 2003 under the sub-item "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the agenda item "Environment and sustainable development". It requested the Secretary-General to report in 2003 on the negative impacts of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters on vulnerable countries, particularly developing countries, in his report on ISDR (decision 57/547).

El Niño

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/194 [YUN 2001, p. 865], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/189], provided an overview of activities undertaken to reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts related to climate variabilities, such as the El Niño phenomenon—a disruption of the ocean-atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific that had important consequences for weather and climate worldwide.

The report stated that impacts related to climate variability, such as El Niño, were hindering efforts towards sustainable development. Thus, it was imperative to strengthen collaboration and
generate synergy between science, technology and operational entities within the UN system to improve understanding of the El Niño effects, the prediction of potential impacts and the development of preventive measures. In addition, national capacity-building programmes needed to include development-integrated disaster risk management plans.

The Secretary-General recommended that the ISDR secretariat should continue ensuring that policies adopted under the Strategy to reduce the negative impacts caused by climate anomalies were recognized as an integral part of sustainable development plans of action and policies at all levels, particularly concerning the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821). Activities launched under the Strategy to reduce the impact of El Niño and other climate variabilities should take account of relevant Summit outcomes and sustainable development conventions. The 10-year review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action in 2004 should include a full thematic review of the status and progress achieved in meeting the targets set out in the Declaration of Guayaquil (Ecuador) [YUN 1998, p. 873]. It should also include thematic reviews of the work accomplished five years after the 1999 Potsdam (Germany) Conference on Early Warning [ibid., p. 871]. The Secretary-General called on relevant UN organizations and the international community to support the establishment of an international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon and other regional and subregional institutions and networks that addressed problems caused by natural disasters. He also advocated that the information flow on the development of the El Niño event should be strengthened and proposed apprising the Assembly in 2004 of ongoing efforts to increase international cooperation to reduce El Niño’s impact.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/57/532/Add.2], adopted resolution 57/255 without vote [agenda item 87 (b)].

**International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon**

The General Assembly,


Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Government of Ecuador, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduc-
tion, towards the establishment of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and the announcement made regarding its opening in January 2003, and encourages all parties to continue their joint efforts for the development of the Centre;
3. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the relevant funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community, to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the above-mentioned research Centre at Guayaquil, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. Encourages the Centre, once established, to strengthen its links, as appropriate, with national meteorological and hydrologic services of the Latin American region, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, as well as with other relevant regional and global organizations that study climate, such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Drought Monitoring Centre and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, and other relevant centres as appropriate, in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of the available resources;

5. Invites the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to ensure that measures needed to address more effectively extreme meteorological and hydrologic events like the El Niño phenomenon are considered appropriately in the 2004 review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/220, 55/197 and 56/194 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled “Environment and sustainable development”.

**Economic and social questions**
Disaster assistance

Africa

Ethiopia

The failure of rains in various regions of Ethiopia resulted in increased numbers of persons requiring food assistance in the second half of 2002. As the response to the needs for June to December was insufficient to meet the 3.6 million beneficiaries targeted in January 2002, plus those of an additional 2.2 million identified in July, there was a projected deficit of 103,583 metric tonnes of food for the period from September to December 2002. Furthermore, urgent interventions were required in the health, water supply and agricultural and livestock sectors. A joint Government/UN flash appeal, covering September to December 2002, sought $12 million to combat the drought and food shortages.

A strategy paper by the UN country team discussed a humanitarian and recovery framework for 2002, which emphasized the need for enhanced coordination among all partners, with the ultimate responsibility resting with the Government at all levels of intervention.

A joint UN/Government appeal was launched for 2003.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/149 (draft: A/57/L.57 & Add.1) without vote [agenda item 21 (6)].

Emergency humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Noting with concern the recurrent drought that affects Ethiopia, and its consequences,

Recalling the initiative of the Secretary-General of 13 September 2000 to improve food security in the Horn of Africa over the long term,

Gravely concerned at the magnitude of the current drought, which may affect up to fifteen million people owing to the serious crop failures in drought-prone parts of the country that have weak infrastructures and low development capacities,

Bearing in mind the 2002 appeal for emergency assistance for Ethiopia, launched on 6 December 2002 by the United Nations and the Government of Ethiopia, to respond to the looming famine situation and to prevent the imminent humanitarian crisis,

Noting with serious concern the dire humanitarian situation and its long-term socio-economic and environmental impact,

Emphasizing the need to address the crisis bearing in mind the importance of the transition from relief to development, and acknowledging the underlying structural causes for the recurrent famine in Ethiopia,

Recognizing that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating conditions for long-term development lies with the Government of Ethiopia, while bearing in mind the important role played by the international community,

1. Calls upon the international community to urgently and effectively respond to the unfolding and imminent humanitarian crisis, which may affect up to fifteen million people in the country, consisting of crop producers and pastoralists;

2. Welcomes the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to strengthen mechanisms already in place to respond to such emergency situations;

3. Also welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to tackle the recurrent drought in the country on a long-term basis, and in this regard calls for its serious consideration by the relevant organizations;

4. Calls upon the international community to respond as a matter of urgency to the crisis, based on the requirements of the 2003 appeal for emergency assistance for Ethiopia covering food and non-food needs, as well as to the urgent needs of programme interventions in early 2003, addressing issues of recovery, asset protection and the sustainable development of the chronically affected areas;

5. Welcomes the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia to increase the availability of food through domestic production, to ensure access to food for households in need and to strengthen emergency response capabilities;

6. Invites the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to continue considering ways to enhance the mobilization of emergency relief assistance for Ethiopia;

7. Calls upon all development partners to stress the need to integrate relief efforts with recovery, asset protection and long-term development and to address the underlying structural causes for the recurrent famine in Ethiopia, inter alia, in line with the poverty reduction strategy paper, including strategies aimed at preventing such crises in the future and that improve the resilience of the population;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Kenza

In 2002, Kenya was moving out of the emergency phase and into recovery, two years after suffering a devastating drought [YUN 2000, p.884]. Throughout the year, assistance focused on recovery from the drought, improving assets and coping mechanisms. The general food distribution supported the most vulnerable, as the sector moved to food-for-work programmes. Although food security prospects in many parts of the country improved, pockets of communities continued to suffer from the stress of the drought. In addition, a continuous influx of refugees from all surrounding countries increased the number of people needing assistance.

A donor alert for 2002 sought $59 million.