Development policy and international economic cooperation

Economic growth in 2000 was unexpectedly and unusually high and widespread. World output, which jumped to 4 per cent from 2.8 per cent in 1999, the strongest increase in more than a decade, was associated with double-digit growth in the volume of international trade. The developed economies, especially North America, were important sources of the strong performance. Although the economic situation of most developing countries also improved significantly, recovery from the setbacks of the financial crises of recent years remained incomplete. In many cases, employment and real wages had not returned to pre-crisis levels and broad negative social consequences persisted.

In action on development issues by UN bodies during the year, the challenges and opportunities of globalization were recognized, but concern was expressed about the exclusion of a large number of developing countries from the benefits of globalization and the growing income and technological gap, both between rich and poor countries and within countries. Those issues were also taken up by the Millennium Assembly (see p. 47) and the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see p. 890).

In July, ministers attending the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council adopted a Declaration calling for action by Governments and the international community to improve the capacity of developing countries and economies in transition to participate in the emerging global knowledge-based economy in order to promote their economic and social development. Also in July, the Council recommended the creation of an information and communication technologies task force in order to formulate strategies for putting those technologies at the service of development. In a December resolution on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to continue consultations on establishing such a task force.

The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its April/May session, held a multi-stakeholder dialogue on agriculture and considered preparations for the 10-year review, to be held in 2002, of progress achieved in implementing Agenda 21, adopted in 1992 by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Committee for Development Policy, in April, carried out the triennial review of the list of least developed countries (LDCs), recommending that Senegal be added to and Maldives be graduated from the list. Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs, to be held in 2001, were considered by the Assembly in December.

Other action by the Assembly on international economic cooperation included calling for the elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures, emphasizing the need for a favourable international and national environment for the industrialization of developing countries, calling on the UN system to continue to conduct analytical studies and provide advice and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare for a second high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership and inviting the members of the UN system to reflect in their programmes measures for the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

International economic relations

Development and international economic cooperation

A number of UN bodies addressed development and international economic cooperation issues during 2000, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

On 14 December, the Assembly, by decision 55/434, deferred consideration of the launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development and included the
item in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth (2001) session.

On 20 December, the Assembly took note of the reports of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee on its discussion of macro-economic policy questions [A/55/579] (decision 55/437) and of sustainable development and international economic cooperation [A/55/581] (decision 55/440). By decision 55/458 of 23 December, the Assembly decided that the latter item would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-fifth (2001) session.

**Economic and Social Council consideration.** On 18 April, the Economic and Social Council held its third special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund) [E/2000/581]. It considered a note by the Secretary-General identifying issues related to the reform of the global financial system and the fight against poverty in developing countries [E/2000/8] (see p. 906).

**Promoting a new global human order**

By a 5 May letter [A/55/74], Nigeria transmitted to the General Assembly the texts of the Declaration and the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit (Havana, Cuba, 10-14 April). In the Declaration, the heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Group of 77 developing countries and China stressed the need for a new global human order aimed at reversing the growing disparities between rich and poor, both among and within countries through the promotion of growth with equity, poverty eradication, expansion of productive employment and promotion of gender equality and social integration. Many of those objectives were included in the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration (see p. 49).

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 29 November [meeting 74], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/48 [draft: A/55/ L.15/Rev.2 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 174].

**The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the role of the United Nations in promoting international economic and social cooperation,

Recognizing that the well-being of people and the full development of their potential is the overall goal of sustainable development,

Deeply concerned about the growing disparities between rich and poor, both within and among countries, and about the adverse implications thereof for the promotion of human development throughout the world,

Determined to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples, and convinced of the urgency of revitalizing international cooperation towards that end,

Emphasizing that countries are responsible for their development processes, and in this context stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, to assist developing countries in their development efforts,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, adopted by the heads of State and Government at the conclusion of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, in particular the goals and targets agreed therein for promoting development and poverty eradication,

Taking note of the Declaration of the South Summit adopted in Havana on 14 April 2000, on, inter alia, the need for a new global human order aimed at reversing the growing disparities between rich and poor both among and within countries through the promotion of growth with equity, the eradication of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the promotion of gender equality and social integration,

1. Stresses the need for a broad-based consensus for action within a comprehensive and holistic framework towards the achievement of the goals of development and poverty eradication involving all actors, namely Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, and relevant actors of civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

2. Notes with interest the proposal regarding a new global human order;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system on the promotion of a new global human order, and to prepare a report thereon for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

4. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order".

**Globalization and interdependence**

During 2000, a number of UN bodies considered issues of globalization and interdependence, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session (UNCTAD X), which adopted the Bangkok Declaration and Plan of Action (see p. 891), and the General Assembly. The role of information technology in development in the context of globalization was discussed by the Committee for Development Policy and at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (see p. 799).

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 54/231 [YUN 1999, p. 743], the Secretary-General submitted a September report on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence [A/55/381]. The report focused on the need for the transfer
of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the age of globalization, including issues related to such transfer to developing countries, and reviewed efforts undertaken by the UN system to enhance national ICT capacities. The report noted that the pivotal role of ICT in the emerging global knowledge-based economy was recognized in a series of documents, events and activities undertaken by the United Nations in 2000, including the Secretary-General's report "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" [A/54/2000], submitted to the Millennium Assembly (see p. 55).

Building on the proposals contained in the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment (see p. 799), the Secretary-General presented a number of action-oriented recommendations regarding the role of the UN system in the transfer of ICT to developing countries. The suggestions included: providing advisory services on a number of ICT issues; strengthening collaboration among UN organizations in relation to ICT and establishing a system-wide inventory of the UN system's ICT activities; providing technical assistance to facilitate swifter diffusion of technological innovations; helping to generate reliable standardized and up-to-date statistical information on the impact of ICT on development; serving as a regional forum on ICT development and other regional activities; designing special programmes for the least developed countries (LDCs); upgrading the capabilities of UN organizations in using ICT for development; and taking steps to ensure dissemination of the UN system's wealth of knowledge and experience regarding the use of ICT for social and economic development, including creation of a web site on the Organization's ICT activities. A final section of the report, prepared by UNCTAD, addressed the promotion of policy coherence, complementarity and coordination in order to optimize the benefits of globalization.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/587], adopted resolution 55/212 without vote [agenda item 100].

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998 and 54/231 of 22 December 1999,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000,

Taking note of the Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session, held at Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000,

Taking note also of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000,

Taking note further of the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York from 5 to 7 July 2000,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/29 of 28 July 2000, in which the Council called for the establishment of a United Nations information and communication technologies task force,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

Expressing concern about the marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the benefits of globalization, the additional vulnerability of those developing countries that are integrating into the world economy and the general accentuation of the income and technological gap between developed and developing countries, as well as within countries,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, development and the improvement of living standards around the world, and recognizing also that some countries have made progress in successfully adapting to the changes and have benefited from globalization,

Recognizing also the importance of appropriate policy responses at the national level by all countries to the challenges of globalization, in particular by pursuing sound macroeconomic and social policies, noting the need for support from the international community for the efforts of the least developed countries, in particular, to improve their institutional and management capacities, and recognizing further that all countries should pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promoting a favourable global economic environment,

Stressing that such national macroeconomic and social policies can yield better results with international support and with an enabling international economic environment,

Emphasizing the need to address those imbalances and asymmetries in international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have a negative impact on development prospects for developing countries, with a view to minimizing those impacts,

Noting with serious concern that a large number of developing countries have not yet been able to reap the full benefits of the existing multilateral trading system, and underlining the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy so as to enable them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

Stressing that the process of reform for a strengthened and stable international financial architecture should be based on broad participation in a genuine multilateral approach, involving all members of the international community, to ensure that the diverse
needs and interests of all countries are adequately represented.

Underlining the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence for all developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universal forum, is in a unique position to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, including, in particular, promoting a more equitable sharing of the benefits of globalization,

1. Reaffirms that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

2. Re-emphasizes the urgency of coherent action by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, as appropriate, along with the action of Governments, to promote equitable and broad sharing in the benefits of globalization, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

3. Calls for the effective addressing of globalization through, inter alia, making the decision-making process of international economic and financial policies more participatory, especially with regard to developing countries, the integrated consideration of trade, finance, investment, technology transfer and developmental issues by the relevant international institutions, the continuation of a wide range of reforms in the international financial system and further progress towards liberalization and enhanced market access in areas and for products of particular interest to developing countries, and, to this end, also calls for coherence and close cooperation among the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

4. Calls upon all countries, in particular the major developed economies, to enhance coherence among their financial, investment, trade and development cooperation policies, with a view to enhancing the development prospects of developing countries;

5. Stresses the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources, so as to realize the mutually reinforcing objectives of poverty eradication and development, including through national poverty reduction strategies;

6. Urges the international community to promote international development cooperation aimed at enhancing growth, stability, equity and the participation of developing countries in the globalizing world economy;

7. Encourages developing countries to continue to pursue appropriate development policies to promote economic development and poverty eradication, and, in this regard, invites the international community to pursue strategies that support these policies through continued efforts to address the problems of market access, persistent external debt, transfer of resources, financial vulnerability and declining terms of trade;

8. Strongly urges the international community to take all necessary and appropriate measures, including support for structural and macroeconomic reform, foreign direct investment, enhanced official development assistance, the search for a durable solution to the external debt problem, market access, capacity-building and the dissemination of knowledge and technology, in order to achieve the sustainable development of Africa and to promote the participation of all African countries in the global economy;

9. Reaffirms its resolve to give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the United Nations and thereby to enhance opportunities and offset the negative economic and social consequences of globalization;

10. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre and other multilateral and bilateral efforts to help developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries, in addressing their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade and policy, in the improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, and in electronic commerce;

11. Stresses the need for good governance within each country as well as at the international level;

12. Emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization, with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

13. Emphasizes also the technology-led dimension of globalization and the need to promote universal access to knowledge and information as well as the need to strive to bridge the digital divide and to bring information and communication technologies to the service of development and all the peoples of the world so as to enable the developing countries and the countries with economies in transition to benefit effectively from globalization by full and effective integration into the emerging global information network;

14. Encourages the Secretary-General, in this regard, to continue the ongoing consultations on the establishment of a United Nations information and communication technologies task force, and looks forward to the submission to the Economic and Social Council of the report requested by the Council in its resolution 2000/29;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations, an analytical report on the effect of increasing linkages and interdependencies among trade, finance, knowledge, technology and investment on growth and development in the context of globalization, containing action-oriented recommendations, including on appropriate development strategies at both the national and international levels, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;
16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

Development through partnership

On 21 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/215 [draft: A/55/L.71 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 173].

Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Underlining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations,

Recalling the priorities and objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, particularly in regard to developing strong partnerships in pursuit of development and poverty eradication,

Stressing that efforts to meet the challenges of globalization could benefit from enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, in order to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all,

Taking into account ideas expressed in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" of 27 March 2000 with regard to enhanced cooperation with the private sector,

1. Stresses the need for Member States further to discuss partnerships and consider, in appropriate intergovernmental consultations, ways and means to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, inter alia, from the developing countries, to give them greater opportunities to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization;

2. Requests the Secretary-General in this regard to seek the views of all Member States on ways and means to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;

3. Invites the Secretary-General also to seek the views of relevant partners, in particular the private sector, on how to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on this matter, containing a compilation of views of Member States, views of other relevant partners, and his recommendations in this regard, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

5. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Towards global partnerships".

High-level dialogue (2001)

By a 30 June letter [A/54/952], the Chairman of the Second Committee reported to the President of the General Assembly on consultations held with Member States on 9 June regarding the date, modalities, nature of the outcome and focus of the discussions of the second high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, to be held during the Assembly's fifty-sixth (2001) session with the theme "Responding to globalization: facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy in the twenty-first century". The first dialogue was held in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 772]. By decision 54/494 of 5 September, the Assembly took note of the letter.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 54/213 [YUN 1999, p. 742], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on the status of preparations for the second high-level dialogue [A/55/314]. Based on consultations with Member States, as well as recent experience in organizing high-level events, including the Millennium Summit, the Secretary-General made recommendations concerning the modalities, outcome, focus of discussions and next steps in preparing for the second high-level dialogue.

General Assembly action

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/581/Add.4], adopted resolution 55/193 without vote [agenda item 94 (d)].

High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,


Recalling also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, entitled "United Nations Millennium Declaration",

Recalling further the Agenda for Development and the relevant provisions on its follow-up and implementation, and the need to give impetus to international economic cooperation for development so as to follow up on the Agenda effectively,

Reaffirming the importance of continuing the dialogue to be conducted in response to the imperative of solidarity, mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership in promoting international economic cooperation for development,

Recognizing, in this context, the importance of an enabling environment and sound economic policy at both the national and the international levels,

Taking note of the need to ensure the integrated and coordinated follow-up and implementation by the United Nations system of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for develop-
ment through partnership", concerning the past experience of the high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership,

1. Reaffirms the importance of continued constructive dialogue and genuine partnership to promote further international economic cooperation for development in the twenty-first century;

2. Reiterates the overall theme adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/213, namely, "Responding to globalization: facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy in the twenty-first century";

3. Endorses the agreement reached at the intergovernmental consultations, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General, whereby the two sub-themes of the second high-level dialogue would be (a) "Promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy and generating new public and private financing resources to complement development efforts" and (b) "Enhancing the integration of developing countries in the emerging global information network, facilitating access to information and communication technology for developing countries"

4. Requests the President of the General Assembly to continue preparations for the second high-level dialogue, in close collaboration with Member States and taking into account the experience of the first high-level dialogue, as well as recent experience in the preparation and organization of high-level events;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, to prepare for the second high-level dialogue, taking into account the results of major United Nations conferences and summits, General Assembly resolution 54/213, the outcome of the consultations held by the Chairman of the Second Committee, any further guidance provided by Member States and the outcome of the consideration of the relevant item by the General Assembly at its current session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and the International Development Strategy


Progress was assessed in relation to six interrelated goals, singled out in the Strategy: economic growth in the developing countries; international financial matters, including foreign direct investment, debt and official development assistance; world trade; science and technology, industry and agriculture; human resources development, including education and health; and the situation of LDCs.

The report concluded that increasing globalization and liberalization had borne some fruit during the 1990s, with developing countries as a whole succeeding in improving their rate of growth over that of the 1980s. However, the economic improvements were not large enough to permit many developing countries, particularly the least developed, to make meaningful progress on the economic and social fronts. In particular, the weakest persons within a country, namely those who were unskilled or inadequately educated, and some women and children, were unable to enjoy economic improvements as much as had been hoped; in some instances, they were even further marginalized.

New international development strategy

Committee for Development Policy. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/206 [YUN 1999, p. 745], by which the Secretary-General was asked to draft, in collaboration with all concerned organizations of the UN system, in particular the Committee for Development Policy, a new international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium, the Committee for Development Policy (New York, 3-7 April) [E/2000/33] discussed a range of issues relating to the purpose, thrust and content of an effective new strategy. A working group was established to formulate a set of commentaries for consideration by the Secretary-General, who was to submit the draft strategy to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-fifth session. The Committee recognized that a new international development strategy had to be both comprehensive and balanced in order to respond to the needs of the new decade and be flexible enough to reflect the different constraints and opportunities of countries in
very different circumstances and at different stages of development. It should be formulated so as to be readily monitored and assessed in order that progress could be measured and—where progress was found wanting—supplementary actions could be identified beyond what was formulated. The Committee stressed that formulation of a new strategy should be fully informed by a review of what was—and was not—achieved by prior UN development decades, and also that weaknesses and biases in the global system should be identified and addressed.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 54/206, the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly a report containing the draft international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium [A/55/89-E/2000/80]. The draft, which drew on inputs from many parts of the UN system, aimed to give further impetus to international cooperation for development and to monitor long-term trends in the global economy. The draft focused on goals and desirable policy measures and actions and retained the quantifiable goals set by several major UN conferences for the year 2015.

The major challenges of the decade included development and peace; eradicating poverty and hunger; globalization and technological change; ensuring sustainable development; democracy, governance, the rule of law and human rights; promoting gender equality and the participation of women in development; addressing critical situations; and the international and national policy environment. Goals, policies and implementation measures were suggested in the areas of consolidation of peace; the eradication of poverty and hunger; economic development; social development; environmental protection and sustainable development; human settlements; human rights and governance; culture and development; and actions related to countries in special situations, including Africa and LDCs, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, post-conflict countries and those with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS. The Secretary-General also suggested action for implementation of and follow-up to the strategy.

**Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continuing validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling the results of all the major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the targets and commitments relating to development and poverty eradication,

Emphasizing the importance of the several other development-oriented meetings being convened under the auspices of the United Nations over the next two years, including the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development, the special session of the General Assembly to review and address the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the special session of the General Assembly on children, the ten-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, and the draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium, submitted by the Secretary-General,

1. Expresses regret that the consultations foreseen in resolution 54/206 of 22 December 1999 could not be held;
2. Decides to postpone the further development of a new international development strategy until after the aforementioned meetings have been held;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session with an overview of the challenges and constraints as well as progress made towards achieving the major development goals and objectives adopted by the United Nations during the decade of the 1990s;
4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade."
Industrial development

In response to General Assembly resolution 53/177 [YUN 1998, p. 777], the Secretary-General, in September [A/55/356], transmitted the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on efforts under way in the area of industrialization for development. UNIDO activities focused on supporting developing countries and economies in transition, particularly in Africa and LDCs, in adopting reforms to achieve competitiveness and a place in global markets. Those reforms were also designed to ensure that those countries experienced the social and economic benefits of globalization, rather than the downside in which wages decreased, working hours increased and the fruits of globalization were enjoyed only by a few.

By June 2000, UNIDO had 42 integrated programmes, based on specific cooperation requests, in the initial phase of implementation, valued at $280 million and covering time periods of three to four years. The organization also served as a global forum on industrial development issues and the challenges facing developing countries for Governments, representatives of industry from the public and private sectors, investors and others. UNIDO activities included a wide variety of seminars, workshops and expert group meetings related to industrial development and an active publications programme. System-wide cooperation with the UN system and other international organizations was another integral part of UNIDO’s work.

In order to better respond to the needs of developing countries, UNIDO had been undergoing a major reform exercise since 1998, transforming its emphasis from headquarters-based operations to activities in the field. By the end of 1999, UNIDO had established 23 country offices and would establish nine regional centres by the end of 2000. Another important component of UNIDO’s transformation was the grouping of services into 16 modules covering: industrial policy formulation and implementation; statistics and information networks; metrology, standardization, certification and accreditation; continuous improvement and quality management; investment and technology promotion; environmental policy framework; climate conventions and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol [YUN 1997, p. 1048]; energy efficiency and rural energy development (two modules); cleaner production; pollution control and waste management; the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer [YUN 1987, p. 686]; small and medium-sized enterprise policy framework; policy for women’s entrepreneurship development; entrepreneurship development; and upgrading agro-industries and related technical skills.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/580], adopted resolution 55/187 without vote [agenda item 93].

**Industrial development cooperation**

The General Assembly,


Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,

Recognizing the increasing role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector,

Recognizing also the importance of the transfer of technology to the developing countries as an effective means of international cooperation in the field of industrial development,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

1. Reiterates that industrialization is a key element in the promotion of the sustainable development of developing countries, as well as in the creation of productive employment, eradication of poverty and facilitation of social integration, including the integration of women into the development process;

2. Stresses the importance of domestic industrial transformation in developing countries as a way of increasing the value added of their export earnings, so that they may benefit fully from the process of globalization and trade liberalization;

3. Recognizes the need for industry to play an enhanced role in fighting the marginalization of developing countries;

4. Underlines the importance of industrial development cooperation and a positive investment and business climate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. Reaffirms the need, within the existing service modules of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, for initiatives stretching beyond those associated with economic adjustment and stabilization to support the survival and expansion of manufacturing activity in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries;

6. Emphasizes the necessity of a favourable international and national environment for the industrialization of developing countries, and urges all Governments to adopt and to implement development policies
and strategies that promote, within a framework of transparent and accountable industrialization policies, inter alia, enterprise development, foreign direct investment, technological adaptation and innovation, expanded access to markets and effective use of official development assistance to enable developing countries to enhance an environment that is attractive to investment so as to augment and supplement domestic resources for the expansion, diversification and modernization of their industrial production capacity in the context of an open, equitable, non-discriminatory, transparent, multilateral and rule-based international trading system;

7. Acknowledges the interlinkage of globalization and interdependence, and reiterates the importance of the transfer of technology to the developing countries as an effective means of international cooperation in the field of industrial development;

8. Confirms the contribution of industry to social development, especially in the context of the linkages between industry and agriculture, and notes that within the totality of these interlinkages, industry serves as a powerful source of the employment generation, income creation and social integration required for the eradication of poverty;

9. Recognizes the continuing use of official development assistance also for industrial development in the developing countries, and calls upon donor countries and recipient countries to continue to cooperate in their efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of official development assistance resources devoted to industrial development cooperation;

10. Emphasizes the importance, for developing countries, of financing for industrial development, including market-based mechanisms and instruments as well as innovative funding modalities, such as co-financing schemes and trust funds, debt-equity swaps and, as appropriate, other debt relief measures and official development assistance specifically designed to strengthen the industrial capacities of developing countries through, inter alia, the facilitation of private capital flows, and, in this regard, requests relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the context of their strategic partnership, to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to mobilize resources for industrial development, especially by means of investment promotion activities, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, an increase in the competitiveness of their exports, the encouragement of practices to promote employment in industries and various forms of business partnerships, such as industrial joint venture schemes, enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and venture capital funds for industrial development;

11. Reiterates the importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in providing effective support for the sustainable industrial development of developing countries, calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to carry out its central coordinating role within the United Nations system in that respect, and welcomes its efforts to strengthen its cooperation with the rest of the United Nations system at both the head-quarters and field levels by, inter alia, actively participating in the resident coordinator system, so as to enhance the effectiveness, relevance and development impact of such support;

12. Calls upon the international community and the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to support the efforts of the developing countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves with respect to, among other things, trade in manufactured products, industrial investments and business partnerships, and industrial technology and scientific exchanges;

13. Requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to undertake an in-depth assessment, analysis and dissemination of best practices in the area of industrial policies and strategies and of lessons learned in industrial development, taking into account the effects of financial crises and the impact of globalization on the industrial structure of the developing countries, so as to support and boost South-South cooperation by providing practical insights and ideas for international industrial development cooperation and for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

14. Emphasizes the need for financial support to enable the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to implement its technical cooperation programmes and to strengthen its global forum activities, and, at the same time, strongly urges present and former member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions;

15. Welcomes the structural transformation and revitalization of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as well as its new approach in providing comprehensive and integrated services to its member States and the strengthening of its field representation, and requests it to continue to support the industrialization efforts of developing countries and to continue to accord priority to the needs of the least developed countries and countries in the African region;

16. Also welcomes the focus of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization both on the strengthening of industrial capacities and on cleaner and sustainable industrial development, in the context of its new programme orientation, as well as its cooperation with the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Coercive economic measures

In response to General Assembly resolution 53/10 [YUN 1998, p. 778], the Secretary-General submitted an August report with later addenda [A/55/300 & Add.1-3] containing replies received from 14 Governments in response to his request for information on the elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 26 October [meeting 41], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/6 [draft: A/55/L.9/Rev.1] by recorded vote (136-2-10) [agenda item 31].

Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly those that call for the development of friendly relations among nations and the strengthening of cooperation in solving problems of an economic and social character,

Taking note of the opposition of the international community to unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures,

Recalling its resolutions in which it has called upon the international community to take urgent and effective steps to end unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures,

Gravely concerned over the continued application of unilateral extraterritorial coercive measures whose effects have an impact on the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of their entities and individuals in violation of the norms of international law and the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Believing that the prompt elimination of such measures would be consistent with the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 51/22 of 27 November 1996 and 53/10 of 26 October 1998,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 53/10;
2. Reaffirms that all peoples have the right to self-determination and that by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;
3. Expresses its deep concern at the negative impact of unilaterally imposed extraterritorial coercive economic measures on trade and financial and economic cooperation, including at the regional level, because they are contrary to the recognized principles of international law and pose serious obstacles to the freedom of trade and the free flow of capital at the regional and international levels;
4. Reiterates its call for the repeal of unilateral extraterritorial laws that impose coercive economic measures contrary to international law on corporations and nationals of other States;
5. Again calls upon all States not to recognize or apply unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures imposed by any State, which are contrary to recognized principles of international law;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;
7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session an item entitled “Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 55/6:

In favour: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Nauru, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Tonga, Uruguay.

Sustainable development

Commission on Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development held the second part of its eighth session in New York from 24 April to 5 May [E/2000/29]; an organizational meeting had been held on 30 April 1999. The session included a multi-stakeholder dialogue on agriculture (see p. 791) and a high-level segment, which considered issues related to land and agriculture (see p. 791) and forests (see p. 797) and the status of preparations for the 10-year review of Agenda 21, adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (see p. 792). The segment also addressed trade, finance and investment in relation to sustainable development and convened a panel on trade and indigenous people.

The Commission adopted decisions on: preparations for the 10-year review of Agenda 21 [dec. 8/1]; integrated planning and management of land resources [dec. 8/3]; agriculture [dec. 8/4]; financial resources [dec. 8/5]; economic growth, trade and investment [dec. 8/6]; the subprogramme on sustainable development of the draft UN medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 [dec. 8/7]; matters related to the Commission’s intersessional work [dec. 8/8]; the reports of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests [dec. 8/2] (see p. 979) and of the first session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development [dec. 8/9] [YUN 1999, p. 958]; and documents considered by the Commission at its eighth session [dec. 8/11].

By decision 2000/215 of 3 May, the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its decision 1996/302 [YUN 1996, p. 1367], approved the request of 15 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that were on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission to expand their partici-
Agriculture and land management

The Commission’s multi-stakeholder dialogue, which was held on 24 and 25 April and involved representatives of business and industry, workers and trade unions, farmers and NGOs, as well as representatives of indigenous people and scientists, discussed sustainable agriculture issues. It considered a note by the Secretary-General outlining the structure of the dialogue [E/CN.17/2000/3] and transmitting discussion papers contributed by the International Agri-Food Network, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and Via Campesina, trade unions and NGOs [E/CN.17/2000/3/Add.1-4].

The Chairman’s summary of the dialogue, which was contained in the Commission’s report [E/2000/29], reflected issues raised, areas that would benefit from further dialogue and elaboration, and specific initiatives announced or proposed by the participants with regard to the following themes: choices in agricultural production techniques, consumption patterns and safety regulations—potentials and threats to sustainable agriculture; best practices in land resource management to achieve sustainable food cycles; knowledge for a sustainable food system—identifying and providing for education, training, knowledge-sharing and information needs; and globalization, trade liberalization and investment patterns—economic incentives and framework conditions to promote sustainable agriculture.

The Commission’s high-level segment also discussed land and agriculture and had before it the report of the Intersessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Integrated Planning and Management of Land Resources; and on Agriculture (New York, 28 February-3 March) [E/CN.17/2000/11]. The Chairman’s summary of the segment, which was addressed by government ministers and experts, was contained in the Commission’s report [E/2000/29].

Agriculture was also the economic sector/major group discussed by the Commission, which had before it the documents prepared for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and for the high-level segment. In addition, it considered reports of the Secretary-General on sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation [E/CN.17/2000/5 & Add.1] and on sustainable agriculture and rural development [E/CN.17/2000/7 & Add.1-3].

For its consideration of the sectoral theme of integrated planning and management of land resources, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the subject [E/CN.17/2000/6 & Add.1-4] and the report of the Intersessional Ad Hoc Working Group [E/CN.17/2000/11].

In a 5 May decision [E/2000/29 (dec. 8/4)], the Commission, among priorities for action, encouraged Governments to complete the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development by 2002 and to integrate agricultural production, food security and food safety as central elements in those strategies. It also identified areas for international cooperation, including trade, information exchange and dissemination and activities to be carried out by the United Nations and other relevant international organizations.

In a 5 May decision on integrated planning and management of land resources [dec. 8/3], the Commission stated that priority areas for future work on the issues should include prevention and/or mitigation of land degradation; access to land and security of tenure; critical sectors and issues: biodiversity, forests, drylands, rehabilitation of mining areas, mountain areas, wetlands and coastal zones, coral reefs, natural disasters, and rural-urban and land management interactions; access to information and stakeholder participation; international cooperation, including that for capacity-building, information-sharing and technology transfer; and minerals, metals and rehabilitation in the context of sustainable development.

Economic growth, trade and investment


The Commission’s high-level session also discussed trade, finance and investment in relation to sustainable development and included a panel on trade and indigenous people.

In a 5 May decision [E/2000/29 (dec. 8/6)], the Commission stated that economic growth, trade and investment would be considered in 2002 as
part of the 10-year review of progress achieved since UNCED. Priority areas for future work would include: promoting sustainable development through trade and economic growth; making trade and environment policies mutually supportive; promoting sustainable development through investment; and strengthening institutional cooperation, capacity-building and promoting partnerships. The Commission called for a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environment policies in pursuit of sustainable development, taking into account the economic, environmental and social aspects, as well as the different levels of development of countries, without undermining the open, equitable and non-discriminatory character of the multilateral trading system or creating disguised barriers to trade. An important challenge was to stimulate domestic investment and attract foreign direct investment for sustainable development in developing countries and economies in transition.

In a 5 May decision on financial resources [dec. 8/5], the Commission stated that, so far, the provision of resources required for the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in developing countries, had fallen short of needs. It called for the urgent fulfilment of all financial commitments entered into under Agenda 21, noting that the cost of inaction could outweigh the financial costs of implementing Agenda 21. Priority areas for future work would include: mobilization of domestic financial resources for sustainable development; promotion of international cooperation and mobilization of international finance for sustainable development; strengthening of existing financial mechanisms and exploration of innovative ones; and improvement of institutional capacity and promotion of public/private partnerships.

Follow-up to UNCED and to nineteenth special session

In a March report on national reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development [E/CN.17/2000/16], the Secretary-General noted that, by mid-March, 53 countries had submitted national reports on the implementation of Agenda 21 to the Commission's eight (2000) session. The UN Secretariat was in the process of preparing guidelines for national reports to the ninth (2001) session and making preparations for national reporting for the 10-year review of Agenda 21 in 2002.

Report of Secretary-General. In a May report [A/55/78-E/2000/56], the Secretary-General reviewed work under way in the UN system to accelerate implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session by resolution S/19-2 [YUN 1997, p. 792]. The obstacles identified in the Secretary-General's 1999 report on the subject [YUN 1999, p. 751]—including lack of financial resources, inadequate institutional capacity, cumbersome reporting and inconsistent decision-making by UN agencies—continued to hinder implementation, although progress had been achieved in some areas, especially inter-agency coordination. The Secretary-General recommended closer coordination of UN organizations at the regional and country levels and greater cooperation with regional bodies.

UNEP action. At its sixth special session (Malmo, Sweden, 29-31 May), the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted a decision [A/55/25 (dec. SS.VI/3)] by which it asked its Committee of Permanent Representatives to review UNEP activities to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. To that end, the Executive Director was asked to prepare a report for consideration by the Committee to be distributed to all Governments for comments. He was also asked to submit a final version of that report to the General Assembly in 2000 and to the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-first (2001) session.

In accordance with that request, the Secretary-General, in October [A/55/447 & Corr.1], transmitted the report of the UNEP Governing Council on UNEP's contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (see also p. 969).

Preparations for 10-year review (2002)

Commission action. During the high-level segment of its eighth session, the Commission on Sustainable Development addressed preparations for the 10-year review in 2002 of the implementation of Agenda 21, which was adopted by UNCED in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 672]. The first such review was carried out by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997, when it adopted the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. The Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.17/2000/15] summarizing preliminary views and suggestions from Governments on preparations for the 10-year review, including views regarding the political level, venue, title, financing, goals, agenda and preparatory process of and participation in the 2002 event.

On 5 May [E/2000/29 (dec. 8/1)], the Commission underscored the political importance of the
10-year review and stressed that Agenda 21 should not be renegotiated. It recommended that the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session consider organizing the 2002 event at summit level and convening it outside UN Headquarters, preferably in a developing country. It also recommended that meetings of the Commission’s tenth (2002) session be transformed into an open-ended preparatory committee to undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and otherUNCED outcomes, including identifying constraints to and proposing specific time-bound measures for implementation. The Commission further recommended the establishment of a trust fund for voluntary donations in support of the preparatory process and invited the Assembly to decide on the agenda, main themes, timing, venue and other procedural matters related to the 2002 event.

UNEP action. The first Global Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the UNEP Governing Council was held in Malmo from 29 to 31 May [A/55/25] (see also p. 966).

On 31 May [dec. SS.VI/1], the Governing Council adopted the Malmo Ministerial Declaration, by which the Ministers of Environment and heads of delegation, having made a number of declarations with regard to the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, the private sector and the environment, civil society and the environment, and the 2002 review of UNCED, concluded that, with the unprecedented developments in production and information technologies and other factors, poverty could be decreased by half by 2015 without degrading the environment, environmental security through early warning could be ensured, environmental considerations could be better integrated into economic policy, legal instruments could be better coordinated and a vision of a world without slums could be realized. They committed themselves to realizing that common vision.

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report [A/55/120], the Secretary-General described action taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the UNEP Governing Council to ensure effective preparations for the 10-year review in 2002.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/582/Add.1], adopted resolution 55/199 without vote [agenda item 95 (a)].

Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in New York from 23 to 28 June 1997,

Recalling also that Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development should constitute the framework within which the other results of the Conference are reviewed, and from which new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the Conference are addressed,

Recalling further its resolutions 53/188 of 15 December 1998 and 54/218 of 22 December 1999 on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and the special session, as well as its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

Recalling Commission on Sustainable Development decision 8/1 on preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference,

Recalling also that chapter 33 of Agenda 21 identified the Global Environment Facility as one source of financing for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Recalling further the importance for developing countries of chapter 34 of Agenda 21,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring effective preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

Taking note with appreciation also of the Malmo Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sixth special session,

Deeply concerned that, despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and the fact that some progress has been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that support life on earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate,

Reaffirming the political importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and stressing that the review should focus on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,

Bearing in mind that the substantive activities of the review should take into account, as appropriate, the results relevant to sustainable development of other United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up activities,

Bearing in mind also that national reports prepared by Governments since 1992 on national implementation of Agenda 21, to which major groups have contributed, could provide a fair basis for guiding national preparatory processes,
Reaffirming that Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development should not be renegotiated and that the review should identify measures for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference, including sources of funding:

1. Decides to organize the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 at the summit level to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development, and accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of South Africa to host the summit;

2. Also decides to call the summit the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

3. Further decides that the review should focus on the identification of accomplishments and areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference, and on action-oriented decisions in those areas, should address, within the framework of Agenda 21, new challenges and opportunities, and should result in renewed political commitment and support for sustainable development, consistent, inter alia, with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

4. Decides that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection, as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

5. Stresses the importance of early and effective preparations for the Summit and a comprehensive assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference to be carried out at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system so as to ensure high-quality inputs to the review process, and welcomes the preparatory activities carried out so far;

6. Welcomes the work undertaken at the regional level, in close collaboration with the respective regional commissions, to implement action programmes for sustainable development that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Summit itself;

7. Also welcomes the work undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and the secretariats of conventions related to the Conference, as well as other relevant organizations, agencies and programmes within and outside the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the national and regional levels, in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way;

8. Further welcomes the report of the Global Environment Facility to the General Assembly on its contributions to the implementation of Agenda 21, and notes the assistance provided by the Facility to the national implementation of Agenda 21;

9. Welcomes the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its last meeting, held from 1 to 3 November 2000, to request the Chief Executive Officer to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the Facility in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, taking into account the third replenishment;

10. Also welcomes the initiation of the third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, invites all donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to make contributions to the third replenishment and ensure its successful conclusion, and invites the Facility to submit a report to the Summit on the status of the replenishment negotiations;

11. Invites relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations and international financial institutions involved with the implementation of Agenda 21, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme, and of conventions related to the Conference, to participate fully in the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21, including in the preparation of reports for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session and the Summit, in order to reflect their experiences and the lessons learned and to provide ideas and proposals for the way forward for the further implementation of Agenda 21 in relevant areas;

12. Encourages effective contributions from, and the active participation of, all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as its established practices related to the participation and engagement of major groups;

13. Decides that the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session shall meet as an open-ended Preparatory Committee that will provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, as well as other participants in the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995;


15. Decides that the Commission, acting as the Preparatory Committee, should:

(a) Undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference on the basis of the results of national assessments and subregional and regional preparatory meetings, the documentation to be prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the task managers, and other inputs from relevant
work of Agenda 21; contributions from major groups; framework for sustainable development and evaluate have emerged since the Conference, within the frame-requirements, and identify the sources of such support; measures to be taken and ins titutional and financial re-evaluation of Agenda 21, propose specific time-bound learned in the implementation of Agenda 21; international organizations, as well as on the basis of themes for the Summit based on the results of the pre-

(f) Consider and decide on accreditation for the participation in the preparatory process and the Summit of relevant non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; (g) Propose a provisional agenda and possible main themes for the Summit based on the results of the preparatory activities carried out at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, taking into account also the input of major groups; (h) Propose rules and procedures for the participation of representatives of major groups in the Summit, taking into account the rules and procedures applied at the Conference; (i) Undertake any other functions that may be required by the preparatory process; 16. Also decides to hold, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision 8/1, a three-day meeting of the tenth session of the Commission, so that the Commission can start its work as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit, and, in this context, invites the Commission to start its organizational work in order to do the following: (a) Elect, from among all States, a Bureau composed of ten members, with two representatives from each of the geographical groups, one of whom would be elected Chairperson and the others Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom would also act as the Rapporteur; (b) Consider progress in preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, as well as by major groups; (c) Decide, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 17 below, on the specific modalities of the future sessions of the Preparatory Committee; (d) Consider a process for setting the agenda and determining possible main themes for the Summit in a timely manner; 17. Further decides that, in 2002, the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit, shall hold three additional sessions, organized as follows: (a) At its first and second sessions, to be held in January and March 2002, respectively, the Preparatory Committee shall undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; at its second session, the Preparatory Committee shall agree on the text of a document containing the results of the review and assessment, as well as conclusions and recommendations for further action; (b) Drawing upon the agreed text of such a document, the Preparatory Committee at its third and final session, to be held at the ministerial level in May 2002, shall prepare a concise and focused document that should emphasize the need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, reconfirm the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of Agenda 21, and address the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in this regard; the document submitted for further consideration and adoption by the Summit should reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to a North/South partnership and a higher level of international solidarity and to the accelerated implementation of Agenda 21 and the promotion of sustainable development; 18. Decides to organize the third and final session of the Preparatory Committee at the ministerial level in Indonesia, and accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Indonesia to host it; 19. Stresses that the preparatory meetings and the Summit itself should be transparent and provide for effective participation and inputs from Governments and regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, and for contributions from and the active participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21; 20. Welcomes the establishment of a trust fund, urges international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the preparations for the ten-year review through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory process and the Summit itself, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Summit itself; 21. Invites the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the state of preparations for the Summit for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, taking into account, inter alia, the inputs of the various regional meetings; 22. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21".

Also on 20 December, in resolution 55/200, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget to UNEP for the 2002-2003 biennium and to consider other ways to strengthen UNEP in view of the 10-year review of UNCED.

Inter-Agency Committee
The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) met twice in 2000.
At its fifteenth meeting (New York, 24-25 January) [ACC/2000/1], the Committee addressed matters for consideration by ACC, including successor arrangements for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990s), matters related to the Environmental Management Group and preparations for the 10-year review of UNCED in 2002. It also addressed follow-up to meetings of ACC and the Economic and Social Council, and matters related to the work of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development. In addition to considering the reports of the ACC Subcommittees on Water Resources and on Oceans and Coastal Areas, the Committee addressed the status of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

At its sixteenth meeting (Geneva, 18-19 September) [ACC/2000/12], IACSD again considered follow-up to meetings of intergovernmental bodies and reports of its subsidiary bodies, as well as preparations for the ninth (2001) session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and for the 10-year review of progress achieved since UNCED.

### Eradication of poverty

In July, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2000/26 on the role of employment and work in poverty eradication, particularly in relation to the empowerment and advancement of women (see p. 1121).

### UN Decade for Eradication of Poverty

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/232 [YUN 1999, p. 754], the Secretary-General submitted a September progress report [A/55/407] on implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), proclaimed by the Assembly in resolution 50/107 [YUN 1995, p. 844]. The report focused on progress achieved in global poverty reduction since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development [ibid., p. 1113], highlighting the need for more concerted and sustained efforts to eradicate poverty. The impact of globalization on the eradication of poverty was examined with particular reference to LDCs, which had so far not been able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by globalization. The report outlined a variety of possible actions, policies and measures that might be undertaken at the national and international levels to enable developing countries to better benefit from globalization and concluded with a summary of coordination at the intergovernmental level and activities of the UN system in support of national efforts to eradicate poverty.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/586 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 55/210 without vote [agenda item 99].

### Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the initiative to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as well as its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), as well as the declarations and programmes of action of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular in African countries and the least developed countries,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Also recognizing that for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective it is imperative for developing countries to be integrated into the world economy and equitably share the benefits of globalization,

Bearing in mind the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000, as well as the objectives of the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

Bearing in mind also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, particularly section III, "Development and poverty eradication", and its emphasis on solidarity as a fundamental value in international relations in the twenty-first century,

Recalling the commitment made by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit to eradicate extreme poverty, in particular the commit-
ment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recognizing that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and to ensure basic social protection,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Stresses that the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, through decisive national action and strengthened international cooperation;

2. Calls for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments adopted at the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as they relate to the eradication of poverty, with a view to achieving tangible results;

3. Stresses the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all, and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role in the eradication of poverty of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes, promotes equitable income distribution and minimizes environmental degradation;

4. Reaffirms that the causes of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, taking into account the importance of sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural development, productive employment, population, environment, freshwater, food security and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve social and economic development;

5. Stresses the importance of increasing access to and control by the poor over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections, and of improving access for all to basic social services;

6. Recognizes the importance of the adoption of appropriate policy responses to the challenges of globalization at the national level, in particular by pursuing sound and stable domestic policies, including sound macroeconomic and social policies, in order to realize the objective of the eradication of poverty;

Reaffirms that, within the framework of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making with regard to the policies that affect them, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, bearing in mind the relationship between all human rights and development, and an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration;

3. Also reaffirms, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country; it also depends on good governance at the international level, on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and on commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and nondiscriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;

9. Calls upon all countries to formulate and implement outcome-oriented national strategies and programmes, setting time-bound targets for poverty reduction, including the target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, which requires strengthening of national action and international cooperation;

10. Urges the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief for developing countries, and emphasizes that the international community should consider further measures that would lead to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries so that they can share equally in the benefits of globalization, cope with its negative effects, avoid being marginalized in the process of globalization and achieve full integration into the world economy;

11. Reaffirms that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

12. Expresses its appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and calls upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

13. Reaffirms the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, including in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

14. Welcomes favourably the proposal submitted regarding the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication, which will contribute to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of social and human development in the poorest regions of the
world, and requests the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary consultations with Member States and all relevant stakeholders on this issue, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session:

15. Emphasizes the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes the generation of production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support the development of microcredit institutions and their capacities, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions involved in the eradication of poverty, to support and explore the incorporation of the microcredit approach into their programmes and the further development, as appropriate, of other microfinance instruments;

16. Calls upon the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

17. Emphasizes the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, particularly basic education, and training, in particular for girls, in the empowerment of those living in poverty, and, in this context, welcomes the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, including the reconfirmation of the mandate of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to coordinate Education for All partners and maintain their collective momentum, and invites the organs and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to promote the inclusion of education in anti-poverty strategies;

18. Recalls the commitments of the United Nations conferences and summits to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to promote universal primary education in all countries by 2015, and, in this regard, urges Member States to take immediate measures to remove obstacles to young girls' school attendance and to reduce drop-out rates;

19. Welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations system to assign priority to the eradication of poverty and to enhance coordination, and, in this regard, encourages the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and other partners in development to continue to support all Member States in carrying forward their own strategy for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

20. Reaffirms the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment of interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and welcomes the efforts made to implement the 20/20 initiative, which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;

21. Recognizes the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in many countries, in particular African countries, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to the HIV/AIDS crisis, in particular addressing the special needs of developing countries by strengthening the relevant commitments through partnerships as agreed by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, and, in this regard, welcomes the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects;

22. Urges the implementation of the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without delay and the cancellation of all official bilateral debts of those countries, in the context of poverty eradication, in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction as part of their overall development strategy;

23. Recognizes the difficulties of heavily indebted middle-income developing countries in meeting their external debt and debt-servicing obligations, and notes the worsening situation in some of them in the context, inter alia, of greater liquidity constraints, which may require debt treatment through various national and international measures designed to assist those countries to make their debt burden sustainable in the long term and to combat poverty effectively;

24. Encourages the continuing examination in all relevant intergovernmental forums of ways and means to integrate poverty reduction objectives and strategies into discussions on international financial and development issues;

25. Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session a comprehensive report containing an evaluation of progress made towards achieving the goals of the Decade, as well as in the achievement of the 2015 targets on poverty reduction, and recommendations for further action to achieve the 2015 targets, including the identification of resource requirements and possible sources of funding;

26. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

Science and technology for development

Science and technology issues were considered by the Council, the General Assembly and UNCTAD X (see p. 890).

**Information and communication technologies**

Committee for Development Policy. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/67 [YUN 1999, p. 766], the Committee for Development Policy, at its second session (New York, 3-7 April) [E/2000/33], considered the role of information technology (IT) in development. Following a review of the potential benefits and risks of IT, its production and application in developing countries and prospects for development, the Committee made recommendations for national and international action, including calls for strategies to create or enhance national information infrastructure and build human capacity for the IT age, and for international assistance to developing countries to ensure wide access to communication and information services and application of IT to solve pressing problems of human and economic development.

**Economic and Social Council consideration.**

The Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment (5-7 July) of its 2000 substantive session, addressed the theme of "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy" pursuant to decision 1999/281 [YUN 1999, p. 743]. In addition to the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its second session, the Council had before it a report of the Secretary-General [E/2000/52], in which he explored the potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in advancing the process of development and optimizing the benefits of globalization. The Secretary-General stated that ICTs were central to the creation of a global knowledge-based economy and society and could play an important role in accelerating growth, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development in developing and transition economy countries and in facilitating beneficial integration into the global economy. At the same time, the experience of developed countries showed that indiscriminate investment in ICTs could lead to large-scale waste. The report outlined action required at the national level to maximize the potential of ICTs. It also discussed the kinds of strengthened international cooperation needed among Governments, the UN system and other international organizations, the private sector and civil society to support those national efforts.

Annexed to the report was a statement to the Council from ACC—finalized in accordance with the conclusions of ACC’s first regular session of 2000 (Rome, Italy, 6-7 April) [ACC/2000/4]—by which the executive heads of the organizations and agencies of the UN system committed themselves to work, individually and collectively, towards making the goal of universal access to ICTs a reality. Other documents before the Council included the report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology (New York, 17-20 April) [A/55/75-E/2000/55], convened as requested by the Assembly in resolution 54/231 [YUN 1999, p. 743], a compilation of contributions of the UN system to the Secretary-General’s report to the high-level segment [E/2000/CRP.2] and contributions from the five regional commissions [E/2000/70,71,72,73,74].

On 7 July, the Council adopted a Ministerial Declaration by which ministers and heads of delegations attending the high-level segment recognized a wide consensus that ICTs were central to the creation of the emerging global knowledge-based economy and could play an important role in accelerating growth, promoting sustainable development and eradicating poverty in developing countries and economies in transition, and in facilitating their effective integration into the global economy [A/55/3/Rev.1].

The ministers recognized that consistent and coherent national and local actions were essential in order to make ICTs for development programmes effective and sustainable. National programmes should include: establishment of a legal and regulatory framework that fostered ICT development; development of the basic infrastructure for connectivity, including remote areas, and measures to bring down connectivity costs; application of ICT in schools, hospitals, libraries, government departments and other public institutions; policies to promote investment in ICTs; investment in human resource development; technical preparation of national manpower to administer information systems and develop sustainable ICT projects; promotion of the digital enhancement of already established mass media; strategies to link established technologies, such as radio, with new technologies, such as the Internet; and creation of technological incubators linked to universities and centres for research.

The ministers and heads of delegations stated that the UN system, in particular the Economic and Social Council, as well as partnerships involving Governments, development agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders, should also play a key role in promoting coherent efforts directed at expanding the development impact of ICTs. To that end, the Council’s Working Group on Informatics was asked to make recommendations regarding the creation of an ICT task force.
The Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Council in 2001 a progress report on implementation of the Declaration.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 28 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2000/29 [draft: E/2000/L.27] without vote [agenda item 7 (e)].

**Information and communications technologies task force**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration entitled "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy", adopted on 7 July 2000 at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2000,

Noting that several international initiatives are being taken to bridge the global digital divide and create digital opportunities, including the establishment of a Digital Opportunities Task Force (dot force) by the Summit of the Group of Eight nations held in Okinawa, Japan, from 21 to 23 July 2000,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution at a resumed substantive session of the Council for approval.

**ANNEX**

**Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics**

1. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics recommends that an information and communications technologies task force be created with the objectives of providing overall leadership to the United Nations role in helping to formulate strategies for the development of information and communications technologies and putting those technologies at the service of development and, on the basis of consultations with all stakeholders and Member States, forging a strategic partnership between the United Nations system, private industry, and financing trusts and foundations, donors, programme countries, and other relevant stakeholders.

2. The Working Group recommends that the Secretary-General undertake consultations with all stakeholders and Member States regarding the composition, governance structure, mandate, terms of reference, secretarial support, and project implementation arrangements of the task force and the trust fund, taking into account, inter alia, the following elements:

**Mandate**

The task force would:

—Serve as a mechanism to facilitate and promote collaborative initiatives, involving, as appropriate, public and private sectors, foundations and trusts, for the mobilization of resources and for the promotion and funding of information and communications technologies programmes and projects;

—Identify and mobilize new resources, public and private;

—Promote effective utilization of existing resources for information and communications technologies for development;

—Promote collaborative initiatives, at the request of and in consultation with programme countries, for information and communications technologies programmes and projects, including at the regional, subregional, and national levels, taking into account the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 17 of the Ministerial Declaration entitled "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy", adopted on 7 July 2000 at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council;

—Facilitate the pooling of relevant experience of both developed and developing countries and lessons learned, in introducing and promoting information and communications technologies, in developing local content and using information and communications technologies for preserving and disseminating traditional knowledge, with a view to promoting North-South and South-South programme initiatives;

—Develop networking arrangements with other mechanisms and institutions, both public and private, engaged in information and communications technologies development activities with a view to promoting coherence and synergy and identifying joint programme initiatives;

—Administer the trust fund to be established and funded by all interested partners on the basis of voluntary contributions.

**Composition, oversight and secretariat**

—The composition of the task force should be balanced, in terms of partner representation (United Nations system, public and private sectors, foundations, trusts, developed and developing countries, and countries with economies in transition), taking into account the need for geographical balance;

—The task force could be supported by a small secretariat on the basis of secondment from participants and funding by overhead support costs of the programmes and projects financed from the trust fund;

—The Secretary-General shall submit an annual report on the activities of the task force to the Council for its consideration.

**Modalities of operation**

—The modalities of operation of the task force should be simple, efficient, transparent and accountable.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

Having considered a report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence [A/55/381], which paid particular attention to the pivotal role of ICT in the emerging global knowledge-based economy, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/212, in which the Secretary-General was encouraged...
to continue consultations on establishing a UN information and communication technologies task force (see p. 783).

On 20 December (decision 55/445), the Assembly took note of the report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology (see p. 799).

**Coordination mechanisms**

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 54/201 [Y UN 1999, p. 761], the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly a report, by the UNCTAD secretariat [A/55/96-E/2000/84], containing proposals for strengthening the coordination of mechanisms on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development within UNCTAD, in order to promote complementarity of activities within the UN system. In particular, the report recommended steps to be taken by the UNCTAD secretariat to create an electronic network relating to science and technology for development as a means to achieve coordination in the area of science and technology policy and programmes and to improve information sharing, knowledge diffusion and generation of ideas among UN agencies and other major players, including the private sector. The UNCTAD secretariat had already started the process of establishing such a network, which was expected to be operational by the end of 2000.

On 28 July, by decision 2000/301, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report.

**Note by Secretariat.** By a September note [A/55/413], the Secretariat drew attention to the report prepared by UNCTAD and noted that the follow-up to Assembly resolution 54/201 was also directly relevant to the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.

On 20 December (decision 55/439), the Assembly took note of the Secretariat’s note.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/579/Add.4], adopted resolution 55/185 without vote [agenda item 92 (d)].

**Strengthening the coordination of the mechanisms on the Commission for Science and Technology for Development: promoting complementarity of activities in the area of new and innovative technologies within the United Nations system**

The General Assembly, Reaffirming its resolution 54/201 of 22 December 1999,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration entitled "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy", adopted by the Economic and Social Council during the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2000,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/29 of 28 July 2000 on the information and communication technologies task force,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development, noting the work being undertaken by the Commission in its work programme for Member States, especially the developing countries, and its work with some countries with economies in transition, emphasizing the importance of the activities that are to be pursued within the framework of the Commission, including a broad spectrum of new global challenges in science and technology, and encouraging support for those undertakings,

Cognizant of the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat responsible for the substantive servicing of the Commission,

Taking note of the Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session, held at Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000, in which the Conference noted, inter alia, the growing technology gap between developed and developing countries, and stressed that actions were required by both developed and developing countries, among others, including the establishment of appropriate policy and legal frameworks, human resource development and the provision of technical assistance and, where possible, financial assistance and other incentives in order to narrow that gap and promote greater access, transfer and diffusion of technology to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Recognizing the need to address the obstacles faced by developing countries in accessing new technologies, while taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries,

Recognizing also the importance of establishing and strengthening partnership and networking among the public and private sectors and academic institutions of the South and the North to build and strengthen the technological capabilities and skills needed for developing countries to compete in the international markets,

Bearing in mind the cross-cutting nature of science and technology within the United Nations system and the need, inter alia, for effective policy guidance and better coordination,

Noting that the theme of the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council will be "The role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector",

Recalling that the next biennial session of the Commission will be held in 2001,
Recognizing the need for adequate resources, including the provision of new and additional resources from all sources, to be devoted to fostering science and technology for development,

Recognizing also the need for strengthening the role of the Commission,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for strengthening the coordination of the mechanisms on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development with the objective of promoting complementarity of activities within the United Nations system;

2. Welcomes the recommendations regarding the establishment of a knowledge and technology for development network contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. Requests the Commission to report on its biennial session, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, in particular regarding proposals aimed at promoting complementarity of activities in the area of new and innovative technologies within the United Nations system;

4. Calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, by providing it with the necessary resources, in order to enable it to carry out better its mandate of assisting the developing countries with their national development efforts in the field of science and technology;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, an analytical report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, containing, in particular, concrete proposals for strengthening the critical role of the Commission in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in support of the efforts of developing countries to obtain, effectively utilize and benefit from science and technology for their development;

6. Decides that, as from the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the item entitled "Science and technology for development" will normally be included in its agenda on a biennial basis.

**Economic and social trends**

**Economic surveys and trends**

The World Economic and Social Survey 2000 [Sales No. E.00.II.C.1], prepared in mid-2000 by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), stated that the healing process in the global economy following the widespread economic setbacks of 1997-1998 gathered momentum in 1999 and was expected to broaden and deepen. Growth rates in all country groupings—developed countries, developing countries and economies in transition—increased in 1999 compared with 1998 and growth in world output was expected to accelerate to 3.5 per cent, the highest rate since 1996. Although trade growth remained slow in early 1999, accelerating recovery in Asia and continued rapid growth in North America increased trade values and volumes during the second half of the year, and that accelerated in early 2000. Continuing economic expansion in the United States was an important factor in sustaining international trade and external demand for a number of economies. In spite of the acceleration in output and a sharp rise in oil prices, inflation worldwide remained under control.

Developing countries and economies in transition recovered more quickly than anticipated from the currency and financial crises of 1997-1998, with economic growth returning to the East Asian countries and the Brazilian and Russian recessions turning out to be shorter than forecast. Still, many countries failed to participate in the recovery or see their pace of economic expansion return to pre-crisis levels, and many of the social consequences of the crisis persisted, with unemployment and poverty levels remaining higher than they were a few years earlier. The number of developing countries that recorded falling per capita output in 1999 remained at 37 (out of the 95 regularly monitored) and the number of those countries that achieved sustained annual growth rates of 3 per cent—considered the minimum necessary to lead to long-term poverty reduction—declined from 24 in 1998 to 21 in 1999.

In developed countries, which led the global economic upturn with growth in gross domestic product (GDP) expected to be 3 per cent in 2000, up from 2.6 per cent in 1999, investment in information and communication technology (ICT) sectors, including personal computers, the Internet and telecommunications, was the most dynamic driving force of the upswing. That was particularly evident in North America, where the United States, in April 2000, recorded an unprecedented 109 months in a row of economic expansion combined with continuing low rates of inflation and low unemployment. Although that expansion was expected to continue in 2000 and 2001, there were several downside risks, including an increasing trade deficit and concerns about the overheating of the economy. As a result, monetary policy had been tightened, with other market economies following suit.

Growth in the developed countries of Europe was also robust in late 1999, driven by exports and strengthening domestic demand. For 2000, strong performances were expected in France, Spain and the United Kingdom, while there was sustained though moderate growth in Germany and Italy and some of the smaller economies of the region were expected to grow briskly. Employ-
growth throughout Western Europe was steady, and, in 1999, the unemployment rate dipped below 10 per cent for the first time since 1993. However, average annual rates of unemployment ranged from almost 16 per cent in Spain to about 2.5 per cent in Luxembourg.

In contrast, the Japanese economy remained sluggish as the Government's fiscal stimulus measures failed to put either private consumption or investment demand on a sustained path. Uncertainties related to the pace and depth of corporate restructuring, combined with the large and increasing public debt, contributed to the subdued outlook. Business investment began to pick up in mid-1999, but private consumption remained weak, as indicated by the falling retail sales for 36 months in a row by March 2000. In the other developed countries of Asia and the Pacific, Australia marked its eighth year of continuous GDP growth and New Zealand achieved a modest recovery from its mild recession.

For most developing countries, the economic outlook had become more optimistic, largely due to progress in domestic economic reforms and the improved international environment, including more favourable commodity prices and more stable global financial markets. GDP growth was expected to increase from 3.4 per cent in 1999 to 5.25 per cent in 2000 and 5.5 per cent in 2001, back to the rates of the pre-crisis period. Importantly, the world's two largest developing economies and those containing the largest number of the world's poor, China and India, were expected to sustain growth rates of 6 to 7 per cent in 2000 and 2001.

In South and East Asia, growth was expected to reach some 6.5 per cent in 2000-2001, compared with 6.2 per cent in 1999. Most crisis-affected East Asian economies had been recovering at a robust pace, led by the Republic of Korea, which recorded 10.7 per cent growth in 1999. Other economies in the region also performed well, with only Indonesia virtually stagnating in 1999 and yet to embark on a strong recovery path. The strength and pace of those recoveries stemmed from stimulatory domestic policies and improvements in international trade. Some of the economies were also positioning themselves to benefit from the ICT revolution, especially in semiconductors and broader computer hardware and software. India was among the best performers in South Asia. Favourable weather in the subregion led to increased agricultural output, which supported GDP growth in a number of countries, but pervasive political uncertainties in most countries weakened the effectiveness of government policies, increased fiscal expenditures and discouraged economic activity to varying degrees. China experienced a 7.1 per cent increase in GDP growth in 1999. In the long run, however, China's economic prospects would rely on meeting the challenges of implementing structural adjustments necessary for the country's entry into the World Trade Organization and the continued reform of State-owned enterprises. Economic growth in the countries of West Asia decelerated sharply from 3.7 per cent in 1998 to 0.5 per cent in 1999. However, with oil production increasing, export markets continuing to recover and better weather leading to expanded agricultural output, regional growth, which continued to be heavily influenced by the Iraqi economy, was expected to reach 4 per cent in 2000.

In Latin America, growth stagnated in 1999, but was expected to rebound in 2000-2001. The region's performance—though dismal for many countries, particularly in South America—was better than earlier forecast because Brazil avoided a widely expected sharp contraction, while Mexico and most of the Central American and Caribbean economies grew relatively strongly. Severe recessions in several countries in South America, including Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, resulted in high levels of unemployment. On the other hand, inflation reached an annual average rate of 7.5 per cent for the region in 1999, the lowest in decades. Increasing exports and investment, especially in the main Latin American economies of Brazil, Chile and Mexico, were expected to set the pace of growth for the region, forecast at 3.75 per cent for 2000 and 4.25 per cent for 2001. However, regional growth could be restrained by slower recoveries in other economies, including Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, due to high levels of unemployment, tight credit, fiscal retrenchment, political uncertainties and/or social unrest.

Africa maintained a modest rate of growth in 1999, fed by exports and increased agricultural output, but economic performance varied widely from country to country. A surge in oil prices had benefited net fuel-exporting economies in the region but countries producing non-oil commodities faced less favourable conditions. Disciplined macroeconomic policies in a large number of countries contributed to stability but domestic demand was generally weak. GDP growth was expected to increase from 2.8 per cent in 1999 to 4.25 per cent in 2000 as domestic conditions improved and exports strengthened the recovery under way. Still, persistent conflicts and political instability, combined with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, continued to have an adverse impact on the long-term economic prospects of the region.

Boosted by increased exports, rising investment and more foreign capital inflows, a firm re-
Economic and social questions

Recovery was under way in the transition economies of Central Europe and the Baltic region. However, conditions in South-Eastern Europe remained subdued. The return of positive economic growth to the economies in transition in 1999 resulted from the unexpectedly quick recovery in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries after the major crisis triggered by the collapse of the Russian rouble in mid-1998. Growth was expected to accelerate from 2.1 per cent in 1999 to 3.75 per cent in 2000, which was projected to be the first year since transformation started that all the transition economies would register positive GDP growth. Still, economic performance in Central and Eastern Europe continued to be uneven. The conflict in Kosovo imposed a heavy toll, particularly in South-Eastern Europe, and structural problems in some countries, especially the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia, constrained the region's recovery. In the CIS, particularly the three major economies of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the recovery was expected to be sustained in 2000, but the presence of obsolete industry in those countries, combined with possible debt-serving difficulties and the impact of the Chechenian conflict in the Russian Federation, could fetter prospects for growth.

The Trade and Development Report, 2000 [Sales No. E.00.II.D.19] observed that, despite a rapid recovery from the depressed conditions of 1998, external vulnerability was still a threat to growth prospects in the developing world. Concerted efforts by developing countries to become full participants in an increasingly interdependent global economy continued to be stymied by biases and asymmetries in the trading and financial system. There were too many exporters struggling to gain access to the markets of the rich countries, extreme price movements were affecting manufacturers, and trade imbalances among major industrial countries added to the anxieties of the developing world. Even after years of domestic reforms, developing countries were still dependent on highly volatile capital flows to support growth. Increased international cooperation and dialogue was needed to realize the full potential of new technologies to bridge the growing gap between rich and poor (see also PART THREE, Chapter IV).

Regarding the financial crisis and recovery in East Asia, the Report cautioned that, while the surprising speed of recovery in the region had been encouraging, there remained reasons for concern: first, recovery had been accompanied by only limited corporate restructuring and the health of the financial system continued to rely on public intervention in the credit mechanism; second, exports were unlikely to continue at their recent pace, and public deficits and debt were on the rise in most countries seriously hit by the crisis; and third, the recovery had so far been supported by highly favourable conditions in the world economy, which were susceptible to change. A fundamental lesson of the financial crisis was that excessive reliance on foreign resources and markets left growth prospects vulnerable to external shocks. Greater attention needed to be paid to domestic sources of growth, such as rising wage shares and higher social spending.

According to a report on the world economic situation and prospects [Sales No. E.01.II.C.2], prepared jointly by DESA and UNCTAD, improvements in economic growth were widespread during 2000, but particularly marked in a number of developing countries and economies in transition. The vigorous performance was associated with an exceptional acceleration in the growth of international trade, but was also accompanied by a further widening in the external imbalances among the major economies. Per capita GDP increased in 121 countries in 2000, compared with 104 in 1999. Of these, 73 were developing countries compared to 60 the previous year. Just four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Moldova and Zimbabwe) experienced a decline in GDP, by far the lowest number in more than a decade. Once again, the economy of the United States surpassed forecasts by a wide margin, as did many other developed economies, including the countries of the European Union. Unemployment rates fell, generally to the lowest level in many years, though they remained above 10 per cent in France and Germany.

Economic growth in almost all countries with economies in transition was also generally better than had been anticipated and well above 1999 levels, with the CIS countries growing by 6 per cent in 2000, the best performance since transition began. The economic performance of developing countries improved significantly in 2000, with growth accelerating to 5.6 per cent from 3.5 per cent in 1999. However, progress varied widely among countries, with the poorest continuing to trail behind. Aggregate output rose at a sharply higher rate than in 1999 in all main developing country regions except Africa, where the improvement was modest and the growth rate low, particularly in the sub-Saharan region. The countries of East Asia were recovering much more quickly than expected from the financial crisis of the previous two years, with growth rates reaching 7 per cent in 2000, largely as a result of strong exports of ICT products and buoyant private consumption. Similarly, Brazil witnessed faster than expected export growth and improved credit conditions, which supported domestic de-
mand and resulted in a strong and broad-based recovery that led the way for economic improvements throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, though some South American economies lagged behind.

Human Development Report 2000

The Human Development Report 2000, prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), addressed the relationship between human rights and development, stressing that human rights were not a reward of development, but rather were critical to achieving it. The report examined many examples of egregious human rights violations across the world, with the aim of placing a human rights-based approach to human development and poverty eradication firmly on the global agenda. Sections of the Report dealt with struggles for human freedoms, including freedom from discrimination, want, fear and injustice and for realizing potential, participation, expression and association, and decent work; the link between human rights and democracy; how rights could empower people in the fight against poverty; using indicators for human rights accountability; and promoting rights in development.

The Report ranked 174 countries in its human development index by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted per capita income, among other factors. Of the 174 countries listed, 46 were in the high human development category, 93 were in the medium category and 35 were in the low category. Twenty countries had experienced reversals of human development since 1990 due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic (mostly in sub-Saharan Africa) or economic stagnation and conflict (especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and the CIS). Substantial disparities in global human development persisted both within and between regions. The Report pointed out that two countries with similar levels of economic prosperity could have very different rankings in human development. Progress was most often determined by a country’s ability to convert economic prosperity into better lives.

Development policy and international economic cooperation

Development policy

The Committee for Development Policy, at its second session (New York, 3-7 April) [E/2000/33], discussed the role of information technology in development (see p. 799), made suggestions regarding the draft of a new international development strategy (see p. 786), and conducted the triennial review of the list of least developed countries (LDCs) (see p. 807). Regarding working methods and programme of work, the Committee proposed that special attention be given to: the concerns of LDCs, including the triennial review of the list and preparations for the Third United Nations Conference to be held in 2001; the sequencing of financial and trade policies by developing countries, taking into account their initial conditions and the opportunities and challenges offered by the global economy; securing sustainable development by improving institutional arrangements for meeting environmental and developmental vulnerabilities; and improving economic governance at the national, regional and international levels, as well as international economic cooperation more generally.

In July, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 2000/34, took note of the Committee's report on its second session and welcomed the proposals regarding its future work programme (see p. 807).

Public administration

The fifteenth meeting of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (New York, 8-12 May) [E/2000/66] was devoted to the theme "Globalization and the State". The Group of Experts deliberated and made a number of recommendations on the effects of globalization on the role and functioning of the State and its responses, institutional and managerial, to attain maximum benefits and minimal negative consequences of globalization. In relation to the marginalization effects of globalization, the process that affected national and global economic governance systems was addressed and a number of recommendations were made. The Group of Experts reviewed, commented and made recommendations on the public administration, finance and development subprogramme of the draft medium-term plan for 2002-2005, as well as the current programme budget for 2000-2001 and the next biennium's programme budget.

Other comments and recommendations concerned major undertakings by the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration of DESA and improvements in relationships with other UN funds and programmes, particularly UNDP, in the area of public administration and development.
In July, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 2000/231 without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].

Recommendations made by the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance at its fifteenth meeting

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 27 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the following recommendations made by the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance at its fifteenth meeting:

Recommendation 1

The Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance recommends that subprogramme 8 (Public administration, finance and development) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 be adopted with the changes set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Group of Experts.

Recommendation 2

The Group of Experts recommends that its sixteenth meeting be held during the first quarter of the year 2002 and that the number of experts participating be maximized, possibly by shortening the meeting, in order to achieve a wider geographical representation.

Recommendation 3

The Group of Experts recommends the proclamation of a United Nations public service day to celebrate the value and the virtue of service to the community at the local, national and global levels, with prizes to be awarded by the Secretary-General for contributions made to the cause of enhancing the role, prestige and visibility of public service.

Recommendation 4

In view of the crucial importance of economic and social development issues relating to institutional and managerial development, the Group of Experts takes the view that its relations and interactions with such principal organs and intergovernmental bodies as the Economic and Social Council should be greatly reinforced and that the deliberations of the Council on matters concerning economic and social development could greatly benefit from the input of the Group of Experts. To make this more effective, it recommends that the Council review the status and reporting arrangements of the Group of Experts.

Recommendation 5

The Group of Experts recommends that the United Nations establish appropriate mechanisms to provide the opportunity for ministers and/or high-level officials of Member States responsible for public administration to meet periodically to discuss themes of common interest and exchange experiences.

Recommendation 6

The Group of Experts recommends that the Council, through its subsidiary bodies, undertake a comparative analysis of national economic governance systems and examine best practices in order to assist national strategies for efficient economic governance.

Recommendation 7

The Group of Experts recommends that the Council include in its agenda discussion on issues related to economic governance and provide policy guidance for the global economic governance regimes established for the different functional areas administered by the specialized agencies.

Recommendation 8

The Group of Experts recommends to the Council that serious consideration be given to expanding on the work already done by the African ministers of public service, and that consideration be given to drawing up a United Nations model charter of public service.


Developing countries and transition economies

Least developed countries

The Least Developed Countries 2000 Report [Sales No. E.00.II.D.21], issued by UNCTAD, assessed the main trends in the socio-economic development of LDCs during the 1990s and the challenges of financing LDC development, including aid, private capital flows and debt. As an input to the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs, to be held in 2001, the Report addressed the scale of the development finance challenge in LDCs, the scope for meeting that challenge through domestic resource mobilization, and the constraints limiting LDCs’ access to international capital markets and attractiveness for foreign direct investment. It contained constructive proposals for improving international cooperation for LDCs in the field of development finance in order to facilitate a progressive transition away from aid dependence.

The Report stated that, while the gap between the LDC growth rate and the growth rate of other developing countries narrowed during the 1990s, there were wide disparities among LDCs, ranging from greater than 2 per cent real GDP per capita growth per annum during 1990-1998 in 15 LDCs, including 7 in Asia, to stagnation or regression in 22 LDCs during the same period. Overall, growth during the 1990s was not high enough to make a significant dent in unacceptably high rates of poverty in most LDCs and the gap was widening between LDCs and other developing countries in the rates of social progress. At the same time, aid flows to LDCs had been declining, particularly since 1995. In real per capita terms, net official development assistance (ODA) to LDCs had fallen
by 45 per cent since 1990, and was back to the levels of the early 1970s.

**LDC list**

The number of officially designated LDCs increased to 49 in 2000, when the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Committee for Development Policy’s recommendation that Senegal be added to the list (see below). The full list of LDCs comprised: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia.

**Triennial review**

The Committee for Development Policy, which was responsible for adding countries to or graduating them from the LDC list, conducted the triennial review of the status of LDC designations at its second session in April [E/2000/33]. As requested by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1999/67 [UN 1999, p. 766], an expert group meeting of members of the Committee (the Expert Group Meeting on Testing and Simulations of the Economic Vulnerability Index) met in Paris from 29 February to 2 March. In its recommendations, which were annexed to the Committee’s report, the Expert Group stated that a fuller incorporation of the concept of vulnerability through the economic vulnerability index, as recommended by the Committee in 1999 [ibid., p. 768], meant a significant improvement in capturing persistent structural difficulties associated with stagnating economic growth and slow poverty reduction.

Based on the Expert Group’s proposals and its own review of the list, the Committee recommended that Senegal be added (subject to the Government’s acceptance) and that Maldives be deleted, as it clearly met the provisions of a 1991 rule stating that a country qualified for graduation when it met two out of the three criteria (per capita GDP, augmented physical quality of life and economic vulnerability) for two consecutive triennial reviews. Two additional countries, the Congo and Ghana, met all three criteria for inclusion in the LDC list, but the Committee decided to review their situations further at the next triennial review. Of the countries already designated as LDCs, 39 met all three criteria for inclusion; a further 3 (Bangladesh, Eritrea and Madagascar) were very low-income countries that had been shown to be, economically, only moderately exposed to external shocks; and the remaining 6 countries (Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) had levels of GDP per capita above those of the low-income category, but were retained on the LDC list because they remained handicapped by high levels of economic vulnerability or by low levels of human resource development.

The Committee proposed, prior to the next triennial review, to consider the treatment given to countries with large population size and to countries in transition, and to revisit the practice by which different rules and thresholds for inclusion in and graduation from the list of LDCs were applied, so as to ensure a measure of stability for the list and yet give equal treatment to countries in similar situations.

**Communications.** On 18 and 22 July, Maldives transmitted to the Economic and Social Council President a letter from its President [E/2000/97] and a letter from its Minister for Foreign Affairs [E/2000/104] expressing concern for, and outlining arguments against, the Committee for Development Policy’s recommendation that Maldives be graduated from the LDC list.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 28 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2000/34 [draft: E/2000/181, orally corrected] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

**Report of the Committee for Development Policy**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling section B of annex I to its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, in which it decided that the Council should decide on an appropriate programme of work for the Committee for Development Policy,

Recalling also its resolution 1998/39 of 30 July 1998 on the status of the least developed countries, its resolution 1999/67 of 16 December 1999 on the report of the Committee and its decision 1999/290 of 26 October 1999 on the consideration of the graduation of the Maldives from the list of the least developed countries,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 52/210 of 18 December 1997,

Taking note with appreciation of the presentation by the Chairman and other members of the Bureau of the Committee, and of the report of the Committee on its second session, including its analysis of the role of information technology and development and its suggestions regarding an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium,

Noting that the report requested from the Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and De-
development on the effective benefits derived by the least developed countries specifically on the basis of their inclusion in the list of the least developed countries and on the practical impact of the measures in favour of least developed countries has not yet been made available to the Committee.

Having considered the letter dated 14 July 2000 from the President of the Republic of Maldives addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council,

Having considered also the memorandum dated 13 July 2000 submitted by the Government of the Republic of Maldives,

Taking note of section 7 of the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Testing and Simulations of the Economic Vulnerability Index, held in Paris from 29 February to 2 March 2000, which is annexed to the report of the Committee,

1. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Senegal be added to the list of the least developed countries, subject to the concurrence of the Government of Senegal;

2. Decides to defer to its next substantive session the consideration of the recommendation to graduate the Maldives from the list of the least developed countries, and requests the Committee at its third session to re-examine its recommendation in this regard, taking into account, inter alia, the reports referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the present resolution and the memorandum submitted by the Government of the Republic of Maldives;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the Committee's recommendation to graduate the Maldives, to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/206, and to make recommendations on additional measures that can be taken to ensure a smooth transition from least developed country status for graduating countries;

4. Looks forward to the report being prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the effective benefits derived by the least developed countries specifically on the basis of their inclusion in the list of the least developed countries and on the practical impact of the measures in favour of least developed countries, and requests the Conference to include in that report an assessment of the implications of graduation for the Maldives;

5. Reiterates the importance of consulting with relevant Member States in the drawing up and use of country vulnerability profiles as well as the continuing need for transparency, objectivity and accuracy in these processes;

6. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to take into account the recommendations of the Expert Group on Testing and Simulations of the Economic Vulnerability Index on the format and content of future vulnerability profiles;

7. Takes note with appreciation of the revised criteria for the identification of least developed countries presented by the Committee in its report, and requests the Committee to continue its work on the methodology to be used for the identification of the least developed countries, where appropriate in association with other international organizations working on environmental and economic vulnerability issues, and to report to the Council in 2002 on the criteria which it proposes to use in the triennial review of the list of the least developed countries scheduled for 2003;

8. Requests the Committee at its third session to examine and make recommendations regarding the theme chosen for the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Council;

9. Welcomes the proposals made by the Committee regarding its future programme of work;

10. Invites the Chairman and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue the practice of reporting orally to the Council on the work of the Committee.

Programme of Action for the 1990s

In October, the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (TDB) carried out the final review of progress in implementing the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second (1990) United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Paris Conference) [YUN 1990, p. 369] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 45/206 [ibid., p. 373]. The background document was The Least Developed Countries 2000 Report [Sales No. E.00.II.D.21] (see above). In agreed conclusions of 20 October [TD/B/47/11 (vol. I) (agreed conclusions 459(XLVII))], TDB recognized that implementation of the Programme of Action had fallen short of expectations. The socio-economic conditions in LDCs had continued to decline and the number of LDCs had increased during the decade, with only one LDC able to graduate from the list. The Board emphasized the importance of accelerating growth and sustainable development; promoting poverty eradication in LDCs; strengthening their productive and human capacities, especially in social sectors, such as education and health; transparent and accountable governance; structural reforms; and enhancing the beneficial integration of LDCs within the rapidly globalizing economy.

Third UN Conference on LDCs (2001)

Preparatory Committee. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-III), scheduled for 2001, held its first session in New York from 24 to 28 July [A/CONF.191/2]. The high-level Conference would assess the results of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the 1990s; review implementation of international support measures, particularly in the areas of ODA, debt, investment and trade; and consider adopting further measures for the sustainable development of LDCs and their integration into the world economy. The Preparatory Committee agreed on a draft agenda and rules of procedure for the Conference, and began the process of drafting a new programme
of action, which would be finalized at the second preparatory session in April 2001.

The Committee had before it a note by the UNCTAD secretariat on past performance, challenges and the way forward for the sustainable development of LDCs and their beneficial integration into the global economy [A/CONF.191/IPC/12]. The report outlined developments in the LDCs during the 1990s in several areas, including domestic resource mobilization, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, transport and communications, exports, supply capacity and competitiveness, social services delivery, gender and development in LDCs, and the environment. It also raised questions concerning the challenges currently faced by LDCs and suggested a framework for possible elements to be included in a new programme of action for LDCs.

The Committee also reviewed the preliminary findings [A/CONF.191/IPC/16] of a high-level panel to assess progress in national implementation of the Programme of Action and recommend ways to remedy its most critical weaknesses. A final meeting of the panel was scheduled for September. Regarding other Conference preparations, the Committee examined the results of the second and third inter-agency meetings (Geneva, 10 April; New York, 20 July) [A/CONF.191/IPC/9 & 15] and the second and third consultative forums (Geneva, 11 April; New York, 21 July) [A/CONF.191/IPC/8 & 14] on the preparatory process, as well as the conclusions of three expert-level regional preparatory meetings, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for English-speaking African LDCs (27-29 March) [A/CONF.191/IPC/2], in Kathmandu, Nepal, for the Asian and Pacific LDCs (3-5 April) [A/CONF.191/IPC/3], and in Niamey, Niger, for French-speaking African LDCs (18-20 April) [A/CONF.191/IPC/4]. Country-level preparations, including national LDC action programmes, and the contributions of the UN system [A/CONF.191/IPC/10] were also considered. In addition, the Committee had before it a progress report on the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to LDCs, undertaken jointly by six agencies: the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO) [A/CONF.191/IPC/11].

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 54/235 [YUN 1999, p. 770], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on the state of preparations for the Third Conference [A/55/222]. He reviewed the first session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, as well as various other meetings and preparations undertaken at the regional and national levels. The report also addressed Conference promotion, resource mobilization and the participation of LDC representatives, NGOs and others.

TDB action. On 20 October [TD/B/47/11 (vol. I) (agreed conclusions 459(XLVII))], TDB requested that work on the preparation of the draft new programme of action commence immediately under the authority of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for LDC-III. In preparing the new programme of action, account should be taken of the views of the member States, particularly LDCs, the national programmes of action, the outcomes of major global summits and conferences, and ongoing processes within multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and IMF) and WTO. The Board emphasized the importance of an adaptable document that would include quantifiable, measurable and implementable targets based on international development targets. It was further emphasized that the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the programme of action should be undertaken with the active involvement of major multilateral organizations. The Board stressed the need for effective monitoring and follow-up to the implementation of the new programme of action.

Communication. By a 28 September letter [A/C.2/55/4], Bangladesh transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of the Declaration adopted by the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of LDCs (New York, 18 September), which called on the UN system and other international organizations to participate fully in the formulation of the new programme of action and its implementation.

ACC action. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), at its second regular session of 2000 (New York, 27-28 October) [ACC/2000/20], adopted a statement on LDC-III, in which it declared the full commitment of the UN system to strongly support the Conference secretariat in the preparations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/589], adopted resolution 55/214 without vote [agenda item 102].

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolutions 53/182 of 15 December 1998 and 54/235 of 23 December 1999,
Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000 by the heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,

Taking note of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000, the Declaration adopted by the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 18 September 2000, and the Ministerial Statement adopted at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 15 September 2000,

Noting the progress made in the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the country, regional and global levels,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the Conference, the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its first session, held in New York from 24 to 28 July 2000, and the outcome of the forty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board on the preparatory process of the Conference,

Taking note also of The Least Developed Countries 2000 Report,

1. Recalls that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will convene from 14 to 20 May 2001 and will be hosted by the European Union at Brussels;
2. Decides, in the light of the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its first session, to convene, within existing resources, the second session of the Committee from 5 to 9 February 2001 in New York, at which the Committee will undertake the first formal reading of the draft programme of action and consider other relevant matters, while noting that the final session of the Committee will be held in New York from 2 to 6 April 2001;
3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to defray the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the second and final sessions of the Preparatory Committee through the use of extrabudgetary resources, and also requests that the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee keep the matter under regular review on the basis of information provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference;
4. Notes that sufficient extrabudgetary resources will need to be mobilized to defray the cost of participation of the least developed countries in the third session of the Preparatory Committee, and, in this regard, invites additional contributions from multilateral and bilateral donors, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to seek funding from all possible sources for this purpose;
5. Welcomes the contributions already made by multilateral and bilateral donors for the participation of representatives from the least developed countries in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference;
6. Emphasizes the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders from the least developed countries and their development partners, as well as of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations;
7. Recognizes the importance of the contribution of civil society actors at the Conference and its preparatory process, stresses, in this regard, the need for their active participation, including those from the least developed countries, and invites donors to make appropriate contributions for that purpose;
8. Invites the participation in the Conference and in its preparatory process of (a) the relevant non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, (b) the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held from 3 to 14 September 1990 and (c) the non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, decides that the accreditation of other interested civil society actors, in particular non-governmental organizations and the business sector, to the Conference and its preparatory process shall be considered by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee on a no-objection basis before 31 January 2001 for final decision by the Committee at its second session, provided that requests for accreditation are submitted to the secretariat of the Conference before 15 January 2001 and are accompanied by the relevant information, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to inform the community of civil society actors appropriately about this accreditation process;
9. Also invites the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations for the consideration of Member States during the second session of the Committee as to the form of involvement of civil society actors in the final session of the Committee and at the Conference;
10. Emphasizes the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome;
11. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as convenor of the United Nations Development Group, to continue to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the Conference, in particular at the country level;
12. Welcomes the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Conference, and calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene inter-agency consultations, within the context of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant multilateral intergovernmental organizations, during the preparatory process for the Conference and the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome;
13. Emphasizes the importance of an effective arrangement for follow-up, review and monitoring of the new programme of action for the least developed countries, and requests the Secretary-General to reco-

Economic and social questions
mend to the General Assembly concrete steps in this regard;
14. Stresses that the intergovernmental follow-up, re-
view and monitoring of the new programme of action
should be undertaken in a more effective manner, with
the participation of all relevant stakeholders, particu-
larly the least developed countries, as well as with the
involvement of concerned organizations and bodies of
the United Nations system and other relevant multilat-
eral intergovernmental organizations, and emphasizes
the need to explore innovative approaches in this re-
gard;
15. Notes the current level of regular budget re-
sources available to the Office of the Special Coordina-
tor for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Devel-
oping Countries, and requests the Secretary-General
to ensure that sufficient resources are made available
throughout the remainder of the current biennium,
through judicious management of the resources at his
disposal, and to report on the matter at its fifty-sixth
session;
16. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at
its fifty-sixth session a report on the outcome of the
Third United Nations Conference on the Least Devel-
oped Countries.

Resource requirements
In March [A/54/7/Add.13] and again in May
[A/54/7/Add.14], the Advisory Committee on Ad-
ministrative and Budgetary Questions considered
two notes of the Secretary-General [A/C.5/
54/50 & A/C.5/54/58] regarding the review of the
resource requirements for the high-level inter-
governmental event on financing for development
(see p. 915) and LDC-III.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION
On 7 April [meeting 95], the General Assembly,
on the recommendation of the Fifth (Admi-
ministrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/54/691/
Add.1], adopted resolution 54/258 A without vote
[agenda item 121].

Review of resource requirements for the high-level
international intergovernmental event
on financing for development and the Third United
Nations Conference on theLeast Developed Countries

The General Assembly,
Having considered the note by the Secretary-General
on the review of resource requirements for the high-
level international intergovernmental event on financ-
ing for development and the Third United Nations
Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the
related report of the Advisory Committee on Admin-
istrative and Budgetary Questions,
1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General
and the related report of the Advisory Committee on
Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
2. Reiterates the provisions of section VI of its reso-
lution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which it reaf-
firmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate
Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted
with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary
matters and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory
Committee;
3. Reaffirms section XIV of its resolution 54/251 of
23 December 1999, in which it decided that the special
account would be maintained and the unspent balance
retained until all the activities and programmes out-
lined in the report of the Secretary-General of 13 May
1998 and approved by the General Assembly in its reso-
lution 53/3 of 12 October 1998 were completed;
4. Notes with concern that no extrabudgetary re-
sources have been received to date in response to the
note verbale of 14 February 2000 addressed to all States
members of the United Nations Conference on Trade
and Development, inviting them to consider providing,
through voluntary contributions, resources to defray
the costs of participation of government representa-
tives in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Pre-
paratory Committee for the Third United Nations
Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the
Conference itself;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to explore ways of
providing the resource requirements for the high-level
international intergovernmental event on financing
for development and the Third United Nations
Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to re-
port to the General Assembly at the second part of its
resumed fifty-fourth session.

On 15 June [meeting 98], the Assembly, on the
recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/54/
691/Add.2], adopted resolution 54/258 B without
vote [agenda item 121].
4. Decides also to revert to the question of the financing of the second session of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

II

1. Welcomes the establishment of a Trust Fund for the Preparatory Committee for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development;
2. Decides that the expenses related to the travel and subsistence of the members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee in relation to the consultations mandated in General Assembly resolution 54/279 of 15 June 2000 shall be met through the transfer, to the Trust Fund for the Preparatory Committee, of the balance available in the Trust Fund for the Participation of Least Developed Countries in Intergovernmental Meetings;
3. Encourages members of the Bureau to finance their own travel and subsistence where possible.

Economies in transition

In response to General Assembly resolution 53/179 [YUN 1998, p. 776], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/55/188] describing measures taken by organizations of the UN system in relation to the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy. Information was provided on, in particular, analytical activities, policy advice and technical assistance to the economies in transition especially with regard to the development of the necessary conditions for attracting foreign investment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/581/Add.2], adopted resolution 55/191 without vote [agenda item 94 (b)].

Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

The General Assembly,
Reaffirming also the need for the full integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy,
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,
Noting the progress made in those countries towards achieving macroeconomic and financial stability and economic growth in the course of structural reforms and the need to sustain those positive trends in the future,
Recognizing the difficulties faced by the countries with economies in transition in responding adequately to the challenges of globalization, including in the field of information and communication technologies, and the need to enhance their capacity to utilize effectively the benefits and mitigate the negative implications of globalization,
Recognizing also the continuing need to ensure favourable conditions for market access of exports from countries with economies in transition, in accordance with multilateral trade agreements,
Recognizing further the important role foreign investment should play in those countries, and stressing the need to create an enabling environment to attract more foreign direct investment,
Noting the aspiration of the countries with economies in transition towards the further development of regional and interregional cooperation,
1. Welcomes the measures taken by the organizations of the United Nations system to implement General Assembly resolutions on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;
2. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in collaboration with relevant non-United Nations multilateral and regional institutions, to continue to conduct analytical activities and provide policy advice and technical assistance to the Governments of the countries with economies in transition aimed at strengthening the social and political framework for completing market-oriented reforms with a view to sustaining the positive trends in the economic and social development of those countries, and, in this regard, emphasizes the importance of their further integration into the knowledge-based world economy through the effective utilization of information and communication technologies;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution with particular focus on an analysis that would determine the progress achieved in the integration of countries with economies in transition into the world economy.

Island developing countries

Implementation of Programme of Action

In response to General Assembly resolutions 54/224 [YUN 1999, p. 783] and 54/225 [ibid., p. 995], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/55/185] on progress in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), adopted in 1994 at the Global Conference on the subject [YUN 1994, p. 783], and on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development. The report was based on information provided by members of the UN system, regional organizations and Governments, especially in relation to the issues of climate change and sea-level rise; natural and environmental disasters; waste management; coastal and marine, freshwater, land, energy and biodiversity resources; tourism; national capacities; transport and communication; human resources development;
social and cultural development; and trade. Progress in the development of a vulnerability index specifically for SIDS, which would assist in identifying challenges to their sustainable development, was also reviewed.

With regard to promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean area, the report presented information received from UNDP, UNEP and the Caribbean Community.

The report concluded that there was scope for improving coordination among the UN agencies, the regional organizations and national Governments on tasks that were planned as well as ongoing.

**Communication.** By a 26 September letter [A/C:2/55/3], Samoa transmitted to the Secretary-General the report of the second Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change negotiations, management and strategy (Apia, Samoa, 26 July-4 August). Acknowledging that adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change remained the key challenge facing SIDS, participants made recommendations regarding national communications, capacity development, scientific research, land use and other mechanisms for developing common responses to that challenge.

**General Assembly Action**

On 20 December [meeting 87], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/55/5827Add.4], adopted resolution 55/202 without vote [agenda item 95 (d)].

**Further implementation of the outcome of the global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing states**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,


Recognizing that small island developing States, given their size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and, in most cases, isolation from markets, face special challenges and unique vulnerabilities of an environmental and economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and the need to enhance their capacity to effectively benefit from the opportunities presented by trade liberalization and globalization, while minimizing their negative impact on small island developing States,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Having also considered the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,

Taking note of the report of the second Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change negotiations, management and strategy, which was held at Apia, Samoa, from 26 July to 4 August 2000,

Noting the significant efforts to implement the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, including through effective financial support,

Acknowledging the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to small island developing States,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in December 2000 and the offer of the Government of Cyprus to host the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in January 2001,

Bearing in mind the continued need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,

Noting with appreciation the contribution by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underlining the need for those efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

Noting the work being undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy and other international organizations on a vulnerability index, which incorporates, inter alia, environmental and economic vulnerability factors,

1. Reiterates the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session;

2. Welcomes efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

3. Invites the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

4. Invites the relevant agencies within the United Nations system, in the preparation of the ten-year review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to identify measures that would ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;
5. Calls upon Member States, in particular the donor community, as well as the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, to support the efforts of small island developing States in the further implementation of the Programme of Action through, inter alia, the provision of adequate technical and financial resources, taking into account the Declaration and review document for further implementation and effective follow-up;

6. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system to assist small island developing States in their efforts to enhance their capacities to effectively utilize the benefits and mitigate the implications of globalization, including by bridging the digital divide and fostering digital opportunities in the field of information and communication technologies;

7. Invites all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

8. Urges all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency, the work on the development of a vulnerability index;

9. Welcomes the strengthened Small Island Developing States Unit, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways to further strengthen the Unit, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing States Information Network within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short and long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions, and to make proposals in that regard;

10. Welcomes the contributions of Germany, Italy, Japan and Norway to the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit, and encourages other Member States to make contributions, in particular, in support of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.