Chapter III

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

In 2000, the United Nations, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), continued to coordinate humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies, promote preparedness and prevention, and facilitate sustainable solutions. OCHA’s advocacy efforts aimed to help guarantee the protection of civilians in armed conflict and marshal the resources necessary for swift and vigorous humanitarian responses worldwide. Consolidated inter-agency appeals were launched or ongoing for Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, the Maluku islands of Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South-Eastern Europe, the Sudan and Tajikistan. The total sought for the appeals amounted to $1,922 million, of which $1,139 million was received, meeting 59.2 per cent of the requirements. In addition, an inter-agency appeal covering Afghanistan for 2000, which sought $220.8 million, received contributions totalling $106.8 million, or 48.38 per cent of the requirements.

During the year, OCHA reported contributions for natural disasters totalling $460.7 million for 45 situations in 35 countries.

In December, the General Assembly welcomed the closure of the nuclear power station in Chernobyl, Ukraine.

Humanitarian assistance

Coordination

Humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council

During the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, held from 19 to 21 and on 28 July under the theme “Strengthening the coordination of humanitarian response and the role of technology in mitigating the effects of natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, including conflicts, with particular reference to the displacement of persons arising therefrom” (decision 2000/206 of 4 February), the Council considered special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance. It also had before it, in addition to reports on individual States, a May report of the Secretary-General on strengthening coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance [A/55/82-E/2000/61], submitted pursuant to requests by the General Assembly in resolutions 54/30 [YUN 1999, p. 865] and 54/233 [ibid., p. 826] and by the Council in resolution 1995/56 [YUN 1995, p. 927]. The report covered the coordination of humanitarian assistance in 1999-2000 and the coordinated response of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to humanitarian emergencies, especially activities carried out in support of the Council’s agreed conclusions 1999/1 [YUN 1999, p. 824]. It examined strengthening the coordination of humanitarian response and the actual and potential role of technology in mitigating the effects of natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, including conflicts, with particular reference to the displacement of persons.

During the period under review, the United Nations took steps to ensure a more coherent approach among the humanitarian, political and human rights components of the international response to crises, as recommended in agreed conclusions 1999/1. The approach was two-tiered, involving a partnership between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in addition to the search for consistency among the political, humanitarian, development and human rights bodies of the UN system. That consistency had been achieved in East Timor and the Kosovo province of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Regarding the importance of linking relief aid to sustainable development, as emphasized in the agreed conclusions, an IASC reference group had identified areas affecting post-conflict reintegration and rehabilitation operations, such as inadequate national capacities, the political priorities of bilateral donors, unsynchronized transitional funding, the planning and programming of transitional activities by agencies and inadequate efforts to reach agreements based on common strategic objectives. In April and May, missions to Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Congo and Somalia identified solutions to problems associated with post-conflict transitions and relief-to-development
linkages. Also related to post-conflict efforts was the growing use by the Security Council of peace-building support offices, such as those in Guinea-Bissau and Liberia. IASC worked to strengthen legal and physical protection for civilians in situations of armed conflict and sought to tackle constraints to the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Inter-agency initiatives were taken to promote the rights and welfare of children in conflict situations, and to ensure that older persons were not marginalized in relief operations.

Regarding natural disasters, an IASC reference group was created to review assessment capacities, funding mechanisms, information-sharing, logistics and telecommunications. Efforts were under way to assist Governments in strengthening their early warning systems. A comparative country index of vulnerability and disaster risk was being prepared as part of a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiative to develop a global disaster vulnerability report. An inter-agency initiative aimed to facilitate inter-agency collaboration in disaster reduction issues. UN disaster assessment and coordination teams were strengthened by including more participants from countries in regions likely to be affected by disasters.

During the period under review, humanitarian agencies were confronted with new or resurgent challenges. Emerging challenges in natural disasters and complex emergency responses were increasingly met by Member States through the peacetime uses of military capabilities. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) convened the Fribourg Forum (Fribourg, Switzerland, 15-16 June), an intergovernmental conference on cooperation and coordination in crisis management in Europe. Humanitarian agencies were increasingly recognizing the need to implement psychosocial assistance programmes in emergencies, although such assistance was not systematically included in relief programmes.

The situation of internally displaced persons was a focus of attention in 1999-2000 in countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and IASC members developed new policies, training programmes and guidance material for humanitarian workers, as well as practical action to improve the quality and coverage of field operations. Estimates suggested that the number of persons displaced might total as many as 60 million. Of those, about 11.5 million were refugees (see p. 1145). Estimates were that at least 17 million and up to 25 million persons were displaced within the borders of their own countries as a result of armed conflict or generalized violence. Approximately 30 million more persons were displaced as a result of natural, environmental or technological disasters. The United Nations sought to address the needs of displaced populations in over 20 major crisis situations. Arrangements for the effective coordination of the international response were reviewed and new institutional arrangements were endorsed by IASC in April, based on the premise that Governments were primarily responsible for displaced persons. However, in cases where government action was lacking or insufficient, humanitarian agencies were urged to cooperate with national and local authorities or other actors to support and supplement efforts on behalf of displaced persons. The IASC policy reaffirmed the coordinating responsibility of the ERC as the inter-agency focal point for internally displaced persons at the Headquarters level. At the country level, the IASC policy vested the overall responsibility for the response to the needs of the internally displaced in the resident/humanitarian coordinator.

The Secretary-General observed that the number and range of organizations involved in the humanitarian response to crises was increasing, that the needs of people affected by the emergencies were rising and that the coordination challenge was growing as a result. He called for a renewed commitment by Member States to multilateral leadership of the international humanitarian response, provision of adequate resources to support that leadership and approval of effective administrative procedures to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance. The Secretary-General made recommendations to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council regarding the coordinated response to natural disasters and complex emergencies, the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the role of technology in mitigating and responding to natural disasters and other emergencies and the coordinated response to crises of displacement.

Annexed to the report was a summary of activities taken to implement agreed conclusions 1999/1 and information on lessons learned from the flood response in Mozambique (see p. 885). On 28 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General’s report and asked him to report in 2001 on further progress (decision 2000/243).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/164 [draft: A/55/L.54 & Add. 1 without vote [agenda item 20 (a)]].
Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council of 1998 and 1999,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,

Noting the efforts made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to implement fully the recommendations set forth in agreed conclusions 1998/1 and 1999/1 of the Council,

1. Welcomes the holding of the third humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council during its substantive session of 2000;

2. Invites the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider ways to further enhance the humanitarian affairs segment of future sessions of the Council;

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

4. Calls upon relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to ensure timely implementation of and follow-up to agreed conclusions 1998/1 and 1999/1;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the 2001 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including the implementation of and follow-up to agreed conclusions 1998/1 and 1999/1.

Also on 14 December [meeting 85], the Assembly adopted resolution 55/163 [draft: A/55/L.38/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (a)].

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

The General Assembly,


Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,

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

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

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

Emphasizing further, in this regard, the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected State in dealing with natural disasters in all its phases,

Stressing the need to optimize and disseminate the listings of organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and scientific organizations, as well as the need to develop further a directory of the specialized national, regional and international institutions and agencies working in the field of international response to natural disasters, together with an inventory of national capacities, in order to lay the foundation for an efficient and effective use of resources available and collaborative efforts,

Noting the establishment of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the need to strengthen cooperation and coordination among all relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in dealing with all phases of natural disasters,

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

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

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

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

5. Recognizes that economic growth and sustainable development contribute to improving the capacity of States to mitigate, respond to and prepare for natural disasters;

6. Stresses the need to strengthen efforts at all levels, including at the domestic level, to improve natural disaster awareness, prevention, preparedness and mitigati-
tion, including early warning systems, as well as international cooperation in response to emergencies, from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, bearing in mind the overall negative impact of natural disasters, the resulting humanitarian need and requests from affected countries, as appropriate;

7. Recognizes efforts by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other members of the United Nations system in promoting preparedness for response at the national, regional and international levels and in strengthening the mobilization and coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system in the field of natural disasters, and in this context welcomes the expansion of the United Nations disaster assessment and coordination teams to include experts from all areas of the world;

8. Notes that the transition phase after natural disasters is often excessively long and characterized by a number of gaps and that Governments, in cooperation with relief agencies, as appropriate, when planning for meeting immediate needs, should place these needs in the perspective of sustainable development whenever such an approach is possible, and in this context takes note of the work of the United Nations disaster assessment and coordination teams;

9. Encourages enhanced cooperation among Governments, in particular through the United Nations and regional organizations, in order to strengthen early warning and preparedness mechanisms for natural disasters;

10. Encourages Governments, in particular through their disaster management or response agencies, as appropriate, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to maximize the effectiveness of the international response to natural disasters, based, inter alia, on humanitarian need, from relief to development, and also to maximize the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts at all levels;

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

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

13. Stresses the need for partnership among Governments of the affected countries, relevant humanitarian organizations and specialized companies to promote training in, access to and use of technologies to strengthen preparedness for and response to natural disasters and to enhance the transfer of current technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

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

15. Also encourages in such operations the sharing of geographical data, including remotely sensed images and geographic information system and global positioning system data among Governments, space agencies and relevant international humanitarian organizations, as appropriate, and also notes in this context the work being done by the Global Disaster Information Network;

16. Further encourages compatibility and complementarity of telecommunications and other technological equipment required in humanitarian and disaster relief operations;

17. Stresses the need to ensure close links, as set out in resolution 54/219, between disaster prevention activities and the improvement of natural disaster preparedness and response;

18. Encourages Governments in natural-disaster-prone countries to establish, with the support of the international community, in particular the donors, national spatial information infrastructures relating to natural disaster preparedness, early warning, response and mitigation, including the necessary training of personnel;

19. Encourages innovative efforts that link various phases of international assistance, from relief to development, such as the Joint Disaster Response and Recovery Mission undertaken by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization in all countries affected by hurricane Mitch, and reiterates the need to ensure adequate assessment of and follow-up to these approaches, with a view to further developing and applying them, as appropriate, in other natural disasters;

20. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to prepare recommendations on how to improve the potential of the United Nations to mitigate natural disasters, including, in particular, through the development of an inventory of the existing capacities at the national, regional and international levels;

21. Notes the submission by the Secretary-General of his note on enhancing the functioning and utilization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, pursuant to the request contained in resolutions 54/95 of 8 December 1999 and 54/233 for concrete proposals for enhancing the functioning and utilization of the Fund and the invitation to consider more active use of the Fund for timely and adequate natural disaster response, and decides to consider the note comprehensively at its fifty-sixth session;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to consider innovative mechanisms to improve the international response to natural disasters, inter alia, by addressing any geographical and sectoral imbalances in such a response where they exist, as well as more effective use of national emergency response agencies, taking into account their comparative advantages and specializations, as well as existing arrangements, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", with a view, inter alia, to contribut-
On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the item on strengthening coordination of UN humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, including special economic assistance, would remain for consideration at its resumed fifty-fifth (2001) session (decision 55/458).

**UN and other humanitarian personnel**

In an October report [A/55/494], the Secretary-General proposed measures to improve the existing security arrangements for UN personnel, including the appointment of a UN Security Coordinator (see p. 1346). He noted that the growing number of complex emergencies required the United Nations to provide assistance and protection in situations of armed conflict. The United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, as well as Member States, had a collective responsibility towards those who delivered assistance in high-risk environments.

On 9 February, the Security Council urged States and non-State parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (see p. 1345) to respect fully the status of UN and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel, and underlined the importance of unhindered access to populations in need (S/PRST/2000/4).

On 19 December, the General Assembly, in resolution 55/175, called on all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of their personnel to affected civilians, including refugees and internally displaced persons.

**OCHA review**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/244 [YUN 1999, p. 1274], the Secretary-General, in March [E/AC.51/2000/5], submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) the review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the implementation of CPC's 1997 recommendations on the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs [YUN 1997, p. 897], renamed the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs by the Assembly in resolution 52/12 B [ibid., p. 1392]. The report concluded that support to IASC had been enhanced, progress had been made to address gaps in the response to emergencies, and the mechanisms to plan and monitor emergency assistance had been improved. However, efforts were still needed to make IASC more decision-oriented, to ensure stronger field coordination, to maintain close dialogue with activities other than humanitarian assistance and to promote rehabilitation programmes; OCHA and IASC had taken measures to address the difficulties. The rapid response to emergencies was hindered by the absence of special UN administrative and financial rules and procedures, suited to emergency situations. In a related matter, the IASC Steering Committee, proposed in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 898] to enhance a rapid-response capacity to humanitarian emergencies, had not been established. An effective procedure for sharing lessons learned was still needed.

OIOS recommended that, pursuant to Assembly resolution 46/182 [YUN 1991, p. 421] and Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1998/1 [YUN 1998, p. 841], special emergency rules and procedures should be developed by year's end. The IASC Steering Committee, or a similar mechanism, should be established by the end of 2000, and the ERC should propose to IASC a procedure to ensure effective follow-up on lessons learned and best practices. The Secretary-General concurred with the recommendations.

CPC stressed the need to finalize the development of special emergency rules and procedures, which should be approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies [A/55/16].

On 7 April, the General Assembly in resolution 54/257 took note of the OIOS report on the 1999 review of OCHA [YUN 1999, p. 828] and the comments of the Joint Inspection Unit thereon [ibid]. It requested that, in future, the appropriate legislative mandates relating to OCHA's work be included in OIOS reports.

**Resource mobilization**

**Central Emergency Revolving Fund**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/95 [YUN 1999, p. 825], the Secretary-General, in November [A/55/649], submitted proposals to enhance the functioning and utilization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) as a cash-flow mechanism for the initial phase of humanitarian emergencies. Noting that the decline in CERF use had resulted from the availability within operational organizations of their own emergency funds and other sources of financing for such start-up requirements, the Secretary-General proposed that the level of the Fund be reduced from $50 million to $40 million. Should that proposal receive approval, the concurrence
of CERF-contributing Member States would be sought to transfer $10 million to a trust fund for lifesaving assistance needs, particularly in Africa, which had received low funding and little attention. To ensure more efficient utilization of the Fund, the Secretary-General proposed expanding CERF operational guidelines, which currently provided only for funding of the initial phase of emergencies, to include humanitarian assistance resulting from natural disasters, humanitarian assistance for protracted emergencies and security arrangements for UN and associated personnel.

In 2000, the Fund granted 30 advances, amounting to $38.7 million.

**Consolidated appeals**

According to a May report of the Secretary-General [A/55/82-E/2000/61], a review of the consolidated appeal process, which facilitated the capacity of the UN system to meet its emergency resource requirements, was carried out between November 1999 and April 2000 by humanitarian coordinators, IASC and donors. Recommendations focused on increasing flexibility, improving financial tracking and impact analysis, and advocacy and marketing of appeals. Donors, meeting in Montreux, Switzerland, in March, agreed that more emphasis should be placed on the consolidated appeal process as a continuous year-round process of inter-agency coordination, and suggested that key components should include joint assessments, monitoring and results-based evaluation.

Contributions to the consolidated appeals process had fallen from $1.96 billion in 1994 to $1.2 billion in 2000, and the share of requirements met had declined from 80 per cent in 1994 to 59 per cent in 2000. In 2000, inter-agency consolidated appeals covered Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Congo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, Indonesia (Maluku crisis), Sierra Leone, Somalia, South-Eastern Europe, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. For the first time, the cost of security requirements was included in the consolidated appeals. In 2000, a total of $8.5 million in security requirements for 10 countries/regions was included. It was envisaged that all future appeals would contain a comprehensive account of the security arrangements proposed and their cost.

**Mine clearance**

In a November report [A/55/542], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 54/191 [YUN 1999, p. 830], the Secretary-General presented information on various organizations involved in mine action.

In support of the United Nations Mine Action Service and its humanitarian partners, OCHA continued to make use of its field presence in complex emergency situations to ensure that the humanitarian aspects of landmines were addressed. OCHA Internet sites—ReliefWeb and Integrated Regional Information Network—produced analytical reports and articles that often contained information on countries affected by landmines. In the consolidated appeals for 2000, over $51 million had been requested for mine-action activities in six countries or regions, in support of UN agencies and their implementing partners. As at 27 September, only about $23 million had been secured.

In view of the increase in the number of countries and areas requiring assistance and the consequent need to spread a finite amount of resources and donor funds over a problem that had grown markedly, the Secretary-General proposed that the Mine Action Service should be firmly established as a core function of the Organization, with resources provided through assessed contributions. He reviewed mine-action programmes in Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, the Kosovo province of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Somalia, southern Lebanon, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand and Yemen.

Annexed to the report was a table listing donor contributions totalling $68.6 million, as at 18 October, to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, established by the Assembly in resolution 49/215 [YUN 1994, p. 173] as the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and renamed by the Assembly in resolution 53/26 [YUN 1998, p. 844].

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 6 December [meeting 82], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/120 [draft: A/55/L.44/Rev.2 & Corr.1] without vote [agenda item 47].

**Assistance in mine action**

The General Assembly,

17 December 1999, on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote.

Considering mine action to be an important component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities,

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

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


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

Noting the decisions taken at the First Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, held at Geneva from 15 to 17 December 1999, particularly with respect to Protocol II to the Convention, and the inclusion in Amended Protocol II of a number of provisions of importance for mine-clearance operations, notably the requirement of detectability,

Noting also the entry into force of Amended Protocol II to the Convention on 3 December 1999,

Recalling that the States parties at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention declared their commitment to keep the provisions of the Protocol under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage the efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all problems related to landmines,

Noting that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction entered into force on 1 March 1999 and that the Convention has been signed or acceded to by one hundred and thirty-nine States and ratified by one hundred and nine States, noting also the conclusions of the Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, held at Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000, taking note of the reaffirmed commitments that were made, among other things, to provide assistance for mine clearance and rehabilitation, the social and economic reintegration of mine victims and mine-awareness programmes, and taking note also of the work of the inter-sessional programme established by States parties to the Convention,

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

Recognizing the important role that the international community, in particular States involved in the deployment of mines, can play in assisting mine clearance in mine-affected countries by providing necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective existing minefields, mines and booby traps,

Concerned about the limited availability of safe and cost-effective mine-detection and mine-clearance equipment, as well as the need for effective global coordination in research and development to improve the relevant technology, and conscious of the need to promote further and more rapid progress in this field and to foster international technical cooperation to this end,

Concerned also about the limited availability of the technical, material and financial resources needed to meet the cost associated with mine-clearance activities in mine-affected countries,

Reaffirming the need to reinforce international cooperation in the area of mine action and to devote the necessary resources to that end,

Concerned about the critical financial situation of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the mine-action coordination centres already established under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as the creation of international trust funds for mine clearance and mine assistance,

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

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

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

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations in assistance in mine action;
2. Calls, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of the United Nations, with the assistance of
States and institutions as appropriate, to foster the establishment of mine-action capacities in countries where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population or an impediment to social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels, emphasizes the importance of developing national mine-action capacities, and urges all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, to assist mine-affected countries in the establishment and development of national capacities in mine clearance, mine awareness and victim assistance;

3. Invites Member States to develop national programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system where appropriate, to promote awareness of landmines, especially among women and children;

4. Expresses its appreciation to Governments, regional organizations and other donors for their financial and in-kind contributions to mine action, including contributions for emergency operations and for national capacity-building programmes;

5. Appeals to Governments, regional organizations and other donors to continue their support to mine action through further contributions, including contributions through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, to allow for the timely delivery of mine-action assistance in emergency situations;

6. Encourages all relevant multilateral and national programmes and bodies to include, in coordination with the United Nations, activities related to mine action in their humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national ownership, sustainability and capacity-building;

7. Stresses the importance of international support for emergency assistance to victims of mines and for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of the victims, and also stresses that such assistance should be integrated into broader public health and socio-economic strategies;

8. Encourages Governments, relevant United Nations bodies and other donors to take further action to promote gender- and age-appropriate mine-awareness programmes, victim assistance and child-centred rehabilitation, thereby reducing the number of child victims and relieving their plight;

9. Emphasizes again the important role of the United Nations in the effective coordination of mine-action activities, including those by regional organizations, and especially the role of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat on the basis of the policy on mine action and effective coordination developed by the Secretary-General, and stresses the need for the continuous assessment by the General Assembly of the United Nations in this regard;

10. Emphasizes in this regard the role of the Mine Action Service as the focal point for mine action within the United Nations system and its ongoing collaboration with and coordination of all the mine-related activities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;

11. Encourages the Secretary-General to develop further a comprehensive mine-action strategy, taking into consideration the impact of the landmine problem on rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of assistance in mine action by the United Nations, emphasizes in this respect the importance of further multisectoral assessments and surveys, notes in this regard the ongoing development by the United Nations of standards and certification guidelines for such surveys, and emphasizes the need for an inclusive process to be followed in the development of such standards and guidelines;

12. Emphasizes in this respect the importance of developing a comprehensive information management system for mine action, under the overall coordination of the Mine Action Service and with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, in order to facilitate the setting of priorities and the coordination of field activities;

13. Welcomes recent approaches with regard to the establishment of mine-action coordination centres, encourages the further establishment of such centres, especially in emergency situations, and also encourages States to support the activities of mine-action coordination centres and trust funds established to coordinate assistance in mine action under the auspices of the Mine Action Service;

14. Encourages, whenever appropriate, the use of the United Nations Office for Project Services by the United Nations, including in peacekeeping operations, in order to ensure the unity and continuity of implementation required for integrated mine-action programmes;

15. Urges Member States and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General and, in particular, to provide him with information and data, as well as other appropriate resources that could be useful in strengthening the coordination role of the United Nations in mine action, in particular in the fields of mine awareness, training, surveying, detection and clearance, scientific research on mine-detection and mine-clearance technology and information on and distribution of medical equipment and supplies;

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

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

18. Urges Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have the ability to do so to provide, as appropriate, technological assistance to mine-affected countries and to promote scientific research and development on humanitarian mine-action techniques and technology so that mine-action activities may be carried out more effectively at lower costs and through safer means and to promote international collaboration in this regard;
19. Encourages Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to support ongoing activities to promote appropriate technology, as well as international operational and safety standards for humanitarian mine-action activities, and in this context welcomes the initiation of the revision of international mine-clearance standards and the development of guidelines for the use of mine-detection dogs and mechanical mine-clearance equipment, as well as the development of an international test and evaluation programme;

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

21. Invites the Secretary-General to study how to secure a more sound financial basis for the Mine Action Service and to present options to this effect to the General Assembly;

22. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

New international humanitarian order

The Secretary-General, in a November report on the promotion of a new international humanitarian order [A/55/545], stated that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/124 [YUN 1998, p. 846], he had asked States for information and expertise on humanitarian problems of special concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action. He suggested that in their replies they might wish to describe efforts they had taken to promote compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and to confront situations in which those laws were violated. The report contained the reply of Bangladesh.

The Secretary-General had asked the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to conduct an in-depth study of the implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law at the field level in crisis situations, in consultation with OCHA. It was anticipated that the findings of the study would constitute the starting point for other initiatives to promote a culture of compliance. The Bureau appreciated the Secretary-General’s efforts to make the discussion of the agenda item on a new international humanitarian order more issue-specific and suggested the creation of an expert group to analyse the replies of States and encourage those that had not responded to do so.

The Secretary-General suggested that the Assembly should make more effective use of the agenda item and focus on ways to promote a culture of compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/55/597], adopted resolution 55/73 without vote [agenda item 109].

New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 53/124 of 9 December 1998 and other pertinent resolutions relating to the promotion of the new international humanitarian order and international cooperation in the humanitarian field, Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the new international humanitarian order and his previous reports containing comments and views of Governments as well as of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, Recalling its, resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, pertaining to humanitarian assistance, and the annex thereto, Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General submitted in the context of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, Noting the importance of adherence to internationally accepted norms and principles as well as the need to promote, as required, national and international legislation to meet actual and potential humanitarian challenges, Noting with deep concern the continuing trend of systematic violations of refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments, which can lead ultimately to emergency situations, Noting with appreciation the increased attention of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to addressing the security needs of personnel responding to these emergencies, Noting with appreciation also the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General on promoting strict adherence to refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments, Recognizing that the ultimate aim of all humanitarian assistance should be to save human lives and facilitate the transition, at the appropriate time, to rehabilitation and reconstruction and to facilitate local capacity-building and institution-building, as necessary, in the affected countries and regions, Recognizing, in addition, the urgent need further to strengthen international cooperation and coordination in the humanitarian field,

1. Notes the Secretary-General's continuing support of efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to promote strict adherence to refugee law, international humanitarian law, human rights instruments and internationally accepted norms and principles in situations of armed conflict and complex emergenciea;
3. Urges Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others concerned to extend cooperation and provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General, inter alia, through the relevant United Nations agencies and organizational mechanisms set up to address the assistance and protection needs of victims of complex emergencies as well as the safety and security of United Nations and other humanitarian workers;

4. Calls upon all Governments and parties involved in complex humanitarian emergencies to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel so as to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian populations;

5. Invites Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian problems of concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action;

6. Invites the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and to strengthen further its activities, including cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the other relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

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

Humanitarian aspects of peace and security

On 9 March [meeting 4110], following consultations among members, the Security Council President made statement S/PRST/2000/7 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council has considered the humanitarian aspects of issues before the Council.

The Council recalls its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, and reaffirms the purposes and principles of the Charter. The Council reaffirms also its commitment to the principles of the political independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States.

The Council recognizes the importance of the humanitarian dimension to the maintenance of international peace and security and to its consideration of humanitarian issues relating to the protection of all civilians and other non-combatants in situations of armed conflict. The Council recognizes that humanitarian crises can be both causes and consequences of conflicts and that they can affect the Council’s efforts to prevent and end conflicts, and to deal with other threats to international peace and security.

The Council affirms that timely consideration of the following humanitarian issues contributes to preventing the escalation of conflicts and to maintaining international peace and security: access for United Nations and associated personnel, other humanitarian personnel and humanitarian supplies to the war-affected civilians; humanitarian components in peace agreements and peacekeeping operations; coordination between the Council and the relevant United Nations organs and agencies and regional bodies; and resource constraints.

The Council reaffirms its concern for the well-being and rights of war-affected civilians, and reiterates its call to all parties to a conflict to ensure safe and unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to such civilians, in accordance with international law. The Council recognizes that the cooperation of all parties concerned is vital for effectiveness and safety in providing humanitarian assistance. In this regard, the Council reiterates its call for combatants to ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel and humanitarian personnel. The Council stresses the importance of providing assistance to all those in need, with particular emphasis on women and children and other vulnerable groups affected by armed conflict, in accordance with the principle of impartiality.

The Council notes that full and timely support for humanitarian components can be critical in ensuring and enhancing the sustainability of any peace agreement and post-conflict peace-building. It emphasizes the importance of incorporating humanitarian elements in peace negotiations and agreements, including the issue of prisoners of war, detainees and missing persons and others protected by international humanitarian law. The Council invites the Secretary-General to encourage the early consideration of such humanitarian elements in peace negotiations sponsored or supported by the United Nations, as appropriate. In cases of peace negotiations sponsored or supported directly by Member States, the Council calls upon Member States to draw, as appropriate, upon the capacity of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies as well as other relevant international humanitarian organizations and regional bodies.

The Council notes also that in some instances the integration of humanitarian components into peacekeeping operations would contribute effectively to the fulfilment of their mandate. In this regard, the Council notes the importance of adequate training for peacekeeping personnel in international humanitarian law and human rights and with regard to the special situations of women and children as well as vulnerable population groups. The Council notes with appreciation the inclusion of personnel to handle child protection issues in some recent peacekeeping operations, and encourages the inclusion of such personnel in future operations, particularly in the context of demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers and where there are a large number of displaced and other war-affected children. The Council welcomes and encourages efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

The Council underlines the importance of effective coordination among relevant United Nations organs and agencies, regional bodies, other intergov-
ernmental and international organizations and other humanitarian actors in the field in situations of ongoing conflict and peace-building through, inter alia, the development of strategic frameworks, and expresses its willingness to consider ways to improve such coordination. In this regard, the Council notes the need for further improvement in communication, information flow and coordination between the peacekeeping, humanitarian and development aspects of United Nations action.

The Council recognizes the role played by international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance and alleviating the impact of humanitarian crises, and further recognizes the specific mandate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in this regard. It emphasizes that it is important for these organizations to uphold the principles of neutrality, impartiality and humanity in their humanitarian activities.

The Council notes with concern that inadequate financial support can undermine efforts to address human suffering in certain contexts. The Council recognizes the need for appropriate financial support for humanitarian activities, and calls for adequate funding of humanitarian activities, bilateral or otherwise, in particular in support of multilateral efforts. The Council notes the importance of early engagement and dispersal of funds from the international financial institutions. The Council notes also with satisfaction that its previous statements calling for full support for the United Nations consolidated appeals have had a positive impact, and expresses its willingness to continue to encourage a generous response to such appeals.

The Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue to include the humanitarian situation in his regular briefing to the Council on countries under review, as well as the funding status of the United Nations consolidated appeals, where appropriate. It further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that his regular country reports continue to include a substantive, analytical section on humanitarian issues and their impact on international efforts to implement activities mandated by the United Nations.

The Council will remain seized of the matter.

**Humanitarian activities**

**Africa**

**Angola**

The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for Angola, launched in 2000, which initially sought $258.5 million for the period January to December 2000, was revised to $262 million in July. The donor community had covered 53.9 per cent, or $141.5 million, of the revised appeal.

Progress was made in 2000 in stabilizing the situation of the people of Angola. The number of newly displaced persons dropped from 1 million in 1999 to 338,000 in 2000. Access to populations in need increased during the year, with the opening of at least six major road corridors. The extension of State administration to new areas also created opportunities for agencies to reach previously inaccessible groups, and opened the possibility of medium-scale resettlement and return. However, despite improved access, at the end of October an estimated 60 per cent of the areas hosting displaced populations were still without a humanitarian presence. Close to 10 per cent of the population (1.3 million) benefited from food assistance. The humanitarian operation was extensive, given the acute vulnerability among a large number of the population. About 4 million people, close to 25 per cent of the population, received some form of assistance during the year. A major development was the Government’s increased commitment to humanitarian sectors through its national programme for emergency humanitarian assistance. In 2000, OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal covering January to December 2001 for a total of $202 million.

**Comoros**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/1 F [YUN 1998, p. 847], the Secretary-General, in a June report [A/55/92], assessed the efforts of the international community to assist the Comoros to achieve national reconstruction and sustainable development. The country was effectively divided in two, as the island of Anjouan continued to be administered and to function independently. The Secretary-General observed that the difficult political and economic context inherent in the separatist crisis that had undermined the Comoros since 1997, coupled with insufficient sources of financing and the political impasse, was helping to further tarnish the country’s image. Thus, it had had difficulty getting its partners to support the choices it had made regarding development and public finance management, and convincing them of its current and future viability. Those factors, compounded by the international community’s disapproval following the military coup d’état of April 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 189], had prompted most of the country’s development partners—which traditionally provided more than 80 per cent of all official development assistance (ODA)—to withdraw or adopt a wait-and-see attitude. Relegation of the Antananarivo agreement—a proposal to establish the Union of the Comoros within which each island would enjoy broad autonomy in respect of decision-making and administration—to the back burner caused the country to miss the opportunity to hold a donors’ round table. The political context
had been marked by institutional instability and had not facilitated the introduction of a suitable framework for consultation to mobilize donors and maintain assistance at a level that would make it possible to attain the objectives of Assembly resolution 53/1 F. The current situation of the Comoros still justified retaining the resolution’s content. The report suggested that the resolution should be referred to the Economic and Social Council with a view to initiating a reconstruction and rehabilitation programme.

Eritrea

In January, a UN country team appeal requested $42.8 million for January to December 2000 to assist war-affected people and drought victims in Eritrea. As the response to the appeal was modest, with only $16.8 million, or 39.2 per cent, funded by 1 July, and more than 1 million Eritreans had been displaced following the outbreak of a major round of fighting on 12 May, the appeal was revised to $87.4 million to cover July to December. As at 31 December, $58.1 million, or 66.5 per cent, of the requirements were met. In June, the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission issued an appeal for emergency humanitarian assistance to war and drought victims for a total of $183 million. The UN emergency appeal for the drought in the Horn of Africa sought $392.6 million, including $20 million earmarked for Eritrea (see p. 884).

Until May 2000, the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia was contained in Eritrea to a limited area, with some 270,000 internally displaced persons from the border areas. After 12 May, when hostilities resumed, there was a sudden and massive increase in the population of internally displaced persons, including evacuations from large regions in Eritrea that had contributed to 75 per cent of the country’s agricultural production and had hosted 48 per cent of the total population. The Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities (see p. 173) of 18 June halted more than a month-long fierce fighting and triggered the first return movements of civilians to areas that were previously insecure and/or inaccessible. By the second half of the year, the most critical emergency phase had passed. On 12 December, the Algiers Peace Agreement (see p. 180) ended the two-year border war, which, coupled with the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force, improved prospects for return movements by internally displaced persons and refugees displaced from the border areas. At the same time, more than 200,000 internally displaced persons remained in camps and continued to require a broad range of humanitarian assistance, including food and non-food aid. Relief items and emergency services were required for internally displaced persons living outside camps until conditions allowed their return. Compounding the humanitarian implications of war was the drought that affected much of the Horn of Africa (see p. 884), making recovery difficult. OCHA launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for a total of $157.5 million to cover January to December 2001.

Ethiopia

During 2000, three appeals were launched for Ethiopia by the UN country team. In January, an omnibus appeal covering January to December 2000 totalled $55.9 million, of which $51.5 million was received as at 31 December; in June, an updated drought appeal covered June to December, for a total of $190 million, of which $101.5 million was received; and an updated appeal for rehabilitation and recovery programmes for internally displaced persons was released in August for the period September to December amounting to $30.5 million, of which $4.6 million was received. In January, Ethiopia’s Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission launched its annual relief appeal, which sought $163.4 million. On 14 November, the Commission issued an appeal for relief assistance requirements for internally displaced people and deportees, amounting to $13.6 million.

As a result of poor rains and war in Ethiopia, the number of people requiring emergency assistance by July exceeded 10 million, or 15.7 per cent of the population. With better rains in pastoral areas and the highlands and an end to hostilities with Eritrea, there were signs of improvement. However, large numbers of people, including some 350,000 displaced by the conflict, continued to face an uncertain future. Although a major relief effort and fortuitous rains averted a looming famine, full recovery was expected to be a long process, especially in the pastoral areas where livestock herds had been devastated by drought. Given the vast needs in Ethiopia in relation to the region and in accordance with the recommendations of the Special Envoy for the Drought in the Greater Horn of Africa, the Office of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator was established in Addis Ababa to help coordinate Ethiopia-specific responses, as well as cross-border issues. Following the signing of the Algiers Peace Agreement on 12 December (see p. 180), approval was given for a $400 million World Bank-supported emergency recovery programme. A UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for Ethiopia to cover January to December 2001 sought $203.3 million.
Great Lakes region and Central Africa

The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Great Lakes region and Central Africa covering January to December 2000 required $292.1 million for the regional appeal, inclusive of all World Food Programme (WFP) requirements for country-specific appeals, and $129.9 million for Burundi, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. There was no appeal for Rwanda in 2000. Of the total requirement, amounting to $422 million, $243.9 million, or 57.8 per cent, was received as at October.

The humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes region and Central Africa continued to deteriorate and remained challenging for humanitarian organizations during 2000. Those most affected were caught up in the cycle of displacement, malnutrition, disease and insecurity. The lack of success in brokering peace and the ongoing conflicts in Burundi, the DRC and Uganda resulted in increased numbers of affected populations, internally, cross-border and outside the region. A UN consolidated inter-agency appeal covering January to December 2001 totalled $17.9 million.

Burundi

Despite progress on the political front, armed conflict continued to contribute to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Burundi throughout 2000. While the number of displaced persons decreased significantly, they remained as vulnerable as ever and had become more difficult to access because of the insecurity situation. The UN system was undertaking a national survey of internally displaced persons to assess their situation, basic needs and future plans. In November, OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal covering January to December 2001 for a total of $102 million.

Congo (Republic of the)

The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Republic of the Congo, launched in 1999, which sought $17.1 million for January to December 2000, was revised to $28 million, of which $3.6 million, or 17.2 per cent, had been received.

Following the 1999 ceasefire, population return had accelerated and humanitarian access improved, including areas under the control of non-State actors. Support was required for communities and their returning members in their efforts to restore stability and security. The humanitarian community in the country had agreed on a series of priorities, including continuation of emergency relief combined with reintegration and rehabilitation, attaining full access to war-affected populations, ensuring that assistance met requirements in the northern regions of the country, and support for the peace process (see p. 120).

Uganda

In 2000, conflict and suffering continued in Uganda. The number of the affected population doubled from 690,000 to 1.2 million. Regional conflict and internal strife escalated, with the majority of refugees, displaced persons and drought victims lacking access to potable water, food, land, shelter, income and other basic rights. The consolidated inter-agency appeal for 2000 totalled $27.4 million, excluding WFP’s budget of $39.6 million for Uganda, which was included in the Great Lakes regional appeal. By October, $16.3 million, or 59.5 per cent of the requirement, had been realized. Humanitarian activities were focused on fulfilling short-term relief needs at the expense of recovery and rehabilitation because of funding shortfalls.

In November, OCHA issued a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal seeking $78.7 million for January to December 2001.

United Republic of Tanzania

As a neighbour to conflicts and instability, the United Republic of Tanzania remained one of Africa’s largest refugee-hosting countries. Ongoing civil and political unrest in Burundi and the DRC had hindered voluntary repatriation, causing increased refugee flows into Tanzania, with an estimated 484,000 refugee population as at the end of October. The Tanzanian population in the refugee-affected districts was about 1.2 million, and refugees thus comprised over one third of the districts’ population. The long-term hosting of refugees had strained and negatively impacted the infrastructures and services available to the indigenous population, as well as to refugees. Other factors that affected the country, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and natural disasters, had had a magnified impact on refugee-hosting regions.

In November, OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal totalling $110.4 million for January to December 2001.

Mozambique

In August [A/55/317], the Secretary-General reported on the economic and political recovery of Mozambique, following the 1992 General Peace Agreement [YUN 1992, p. 193]. Although recovery had been remarkable, the country’s economy remained extremely fragile. Life had improved since the war, partly owing to favourable weather that contributed to increased agricultural production, but infrastructure remained weak. In
Humanitarian and special economic assistance

February, flooding set back farmers, fishermen and other small businesses in the southern part of the country (see p. 885). Mozambique continued to need high levels of international assistance to complete reconstruction and to end acute poverty. The Secretary-General reviewed political and economic developments, as well as action taken to reduce poverty and combat sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. He presented an overview of UN system initiatives and updated activities regarding education, health, water and sanitation, governance, HIV/AIDS, gender issues, environment and natural resource management, disaster management, food security and demining.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/167 [draft: A/55/L.53 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

Assistance to Mozambique

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990, 47/42 of 9 December 1992, 49/21 D of 20 December 1994, 51/30 D of 5 December 1996 and 53/1 G of 16 November 1998, in which it urged the international community to respond effectively and generously to the call for assistance to Mozambique,

Reaffirming the principles for humanitarian assistance contained in the annex to its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994, 50/82 of 14 December 1995, 51/149 of 13 December 1996 and 52/173 of 18 December 1997 on assistance in mine clearance, and stressing the need to foster the establishment of national mine-clearance capacity with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to deal more effectively with the adverse effects of those weapons within the framework of the efforts for national reconstruction,

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

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

Deeply concerned also at the impact of the disaster on the economic, social and humanitarian situation in Mozambique,

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

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

Bearing in mind the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, and the mutual commitment entered into on that occasion,

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

Noting with satisfaction the full support by the international community of the post-emergency reconstruction programme presented by the Government of Mozambique at the International Reconstruction Conference for Mozambique, organized by the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Mozambique, which was held in Rome on 3 and 4 May 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique, and his report on assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique and his report on assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods;

2. Welcomes the assistance rendered to Mozambique by various States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and private individuals and groups to assist national development efforts, and their full support for the post-emergency reconstruction programme presented by the Government of Mozambique at the International Reconstruction Conference for Mozambique;

3. Also welcomes the progress made in the consolidation of a lasting peace and tranquillity, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in Mozambique;

4. Notes the importance of the International Reconstruction Conference for funding for the reconstruction programme, welcomes the pledges made by the development partners for the post-emergency programme, expresses its gratitude to the development partners that have already disbursed the pledged funds, and urges others to speed up the process;

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

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

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

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it, for consideration at its fifty-seventh session, under the item on strengthening of the cooperation of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session in 2002, on the implementation of the present resolution.

Somalia

In a September report [A/55/415], submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/96 D [YUN 1999, p. 834], the Secretary-General reviewed the current situation in Somalia and the assistance provided to the country by the United Na-
tions and its partners from August 1999 to July 2000. The Secretary-General reported that two countervailing forces characterized Somalia. On the one hand, commitment was shown to re-establishing the rule of law and promoting responsible public administration, while, on the other, there remained a lack of order and a potential for renewed violence, particularly in central and southern Somalia. It was essential to reduce malnutrition in southern Somalia through further emergency response activities. Emergency prevention activities would be enhanced, essential educational services would be extended and joint planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes with local authorities would be increased. The Secretary-General described three scenarios prepared by UN agencies to prioritize and coordinate action in preparation for possible crop failure or renewed conflict.

The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal, launched in November 1999, which initially solicited $124.3 million, was revised to $50.6 million in July. Of that amount, $30.2 million, or 71.5 per cent of requirements, was received. OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for $129.6 million to cover the period January to December 2001.

Communication. The Sudan transmitted to the Secretary-General a resolution adopted by the Eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Khartoum, 23 November) [A/55/772-S/2001/120] in support of assistance to Somalia for the realization of peace and national reconciliation and unity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/168 [draft: A/55/L.55/Rev.1 & Add.1] Without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

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

The General Assembly,


Recalling also Security Council resolution 733(1992) of 23 January 1992 and all subsequent relevant resolutions, in which the Council, inter alia, urged all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia, and reiterated the call for the full respect of the security and safety of the personnel of those organizations and guarantee of their complete freedom of movement in and around Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia,

Recalling further the statement by the President of the Security Council of 29 June 2000 in which, inter alia, the Security Council expressed its full support for the efforts exerted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to find a political solution to the situation in Somalia, underlined the importance of the widest participation of the representatives of all parts of Somali society, strongly urged representatives of all social and political forces of Somali society to participate actively, urged the warlords and faction leaders to desist from obstructing and undermining efforts to achieve peace, and also urged all States to stop providing those individuals with the means to carry on their destructive activities,

Noting the cooperation between the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others in their efforts to resolve the humanitarian, security and political crisis in Somalia,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts made by the Secretary-General to assist the Somali people in their efforts to promote peace, stability and national reconciliation,

Commending the initiative of the President of the Republic of Djibouti aiming at restoring peace and stability in Somalia, and noting with appreciation the efforts of the Government and people of Djibouti in hosting and facilitating the Somalia National Peace Conference, held in Arta, Republic of Djibouti,

Welcoming the outcome of the Arta peace process, led by Djibouti and sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which provides for the establishment of a transitional national parliament and the formation of a transitional national government,

Noting with appreciation that the mandate provided in the three-year transitional national charter emphasizes priorities, including reconciliation, demobilization of armed militia, restitution of properties to their lawful owners, holding of a national census, formulation of a new constitution, democratization, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction,

Welcoming the efforts of the transitional Government of Somalia to promote national reconciliation within Somalia, recognizing that progress has been achieved in some regions in re-establishing economic and administrative stability and encouraging the peaceful cooperation of all political groups with the new transitional Government towards this end,

Noting with concern that the lack of effective civil institutions in Somalia continues to impede sustained comprehensive development and that, while the environment has become more conducive to some reconstruction and development-oriented work in certain parts of the country, the humanitarian and security situation has remained fragile in other parts,

Reaffirming its support for the joint strategy for targeted assistance of the United Nations system that is focused on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of in-
remains fragile in some parts of Somalia, there is a need for effective coordination and cooperation among the United Nations agencies and their partners, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General.

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States and relevant organizations to alleviate the hardship and suffering of the affected Somali population,

Recognizing that, while the humanitarian situation remains fragile in some parts of Somalia, there is a need to continue the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction process alongside the national reconciliation process, without prejudice to the provision of emergency relief assistance wherever and whenever required, as security allows,

Noting with appreciation that the prospects for humanitarian, rehabilitation and development activities have been more favourable in some parts of the country, owing to the formation of stronger administrative structures, the commitment shown to re-establishing the rule of law in general, and the leadership shown by some regional authorities and by civil society groups in attempting to establish an inclusive alternative to the faction-ridden past of Somalia,

Noting with appreciation also the efforts of the United Nations system aimed at working directly with Somali communities at the local level, whenever possible, and emphasizing the need for coordination with the transitional Government and with local and regional authorities,

Welcoming the continued focus of the United Nations, in partnership with Somali elders, other local leaders and skilled local counterparts at the grass-roots level and non-governmental organizations, on a programme of assistance, including both humanitarian and developmental approaches, given the varying conditions in different areas,

Re-emphasizing the importance of the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services at the local and regional levels throughout the country,

1. Expresses its gratitude to all States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and others by extending assistance to Somalia;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continued and tireless efforts to mobilize assistance to the Somali people;

3. Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others to resolve the situation in Somalia;

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

5. Notes with appreciation the holistic and prioritized approach of the United Nations system to addressing the continuing crisis in some parts of Somalia, while making long-term commitments to rehabilitation, recovery and development activities in more stable parts;

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

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

8. Strongly urges all political groups in Somalia, in particular those which have remained outside the Arta peace process, to participate in the ongoing peace process and to establish a constructive dialogue with the new transitional Government, in order to achieve national reconciliation that allows for transition from relief to reconstruction and development and preserves economic and administrative progress achieved in many regions;

9. Calls upon all parties, individual political leaders and factions in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement and safe access throughout Somalia;

10. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

11. Calls upon the international community to provide continuing and increased assistance in response to the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia, covering the period from October 2000 to December 2001;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Sudan

The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Sudan, launched in 1999, which initially sought $125.6 million for January to December 2000, was revised to $131.5 million. The donor community covered 81.6 per cent, or $107.3 million.

Overall, most areas of the Sudan suffered from chronic structural underdevelopment, which was further compounded by ongoing conflict. People's livelihoods were directly affected in south-
ern and eastern Sudan and indirectly in other areas as resources were diverted away from basic services and infrastructure. Violent conflict continued unabated around the oil fields in Unity State, Western Upper Nile, where the humanitarian situation remained critical. Humanitarian access to populations in the initial stages of displacement remained problematic due to insecurity and denial of access. Fighting continued in the Nuba Mountains, in parts of Bahr El Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria and Southern Blue Nile. In Bahr El Ghazal, the year was marked by the breakdown of the ceasefire in June and subsequent military activity by both sides to the conflict. Populations fleeing the conflict in Upper Nile and displaced in Bahr El Ghazal remained a priority. The humanitarian situation throughout most of the war-afflicted and other areas, except for Unity State, Southern Blue Nile and drought-affected Eastern Equatoria, had improved with better food security. Nevertheless, those gains remained very fragile, as no systematic and consistent longer-term building of local capacities for recovery could be undertaken due to funding restrictions.

In November, OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal covering January to December 2001 and totalling $194.2 million.

Communications. In March [A/54/818], the Sudan transmitted details of the detention, in February, by rebel militia at Fanjak district, Upper Nile State, of an aircraft of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) Southern Sector. The WFP aircraft was used to transport three militia commanders from one area to another. The Sudan urged the United Nations to investigate the matter and to review OLS procedures and regulations in order to avoid a recurrence.

Also in March [A/54/789], the Sudan informed the Secretary-General that on 3 March the rebel movement expelled about 12 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), mainly from areas under the control of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). SPLA had acted to repatriate over 200 NGO employees to Nairobi, Kenya. On 10 March [A/54/792-S/2000/209], Portugal transmitted a statement on humanitarian aid in southern Sudan issued by the Presidency of the European Union (EU), urging negotiations with NGOs with the aim of creating conditions for unhindered operations in accordance with international humanitarian law.

On 29 July [A/54/956], the Sudan called on the international community to condemn a 27 July attack by the rebel movement on a UN boat, during which a representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) sustained injuries. It announced that the SPLA attack on UN personnel and relief agencies in southern Sudan was in violation of the declared ceasefire.

West Africa

In 2000, the West African subregion, including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, continued to experience escalating political and economic instability. By September, internal political disaffection and rebel incursions from Liberia and Sierra Leone heightened tensions in Guinea, leading to a campaign of terror and intimidation of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees there and to the internal displacement of Guinean citizens. Insecurity in the border areas between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone caused further displacement of refugees. Prospects for peace in Sierra Leone were compromised by renewed hostilities and political inertia. Sporadic fighting, economic stagnation, a severe decline in international aid and the imposition of sanctions rendered the recovery process in Liberia close to collapse. A tense political and ethnic environment in Côte d'Ivoire continued to trigger the exodus of foreigners, mostly migrant workers from Burkina Faso and Mali.

OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for West Africa, covering January to December 2001, for a total of $65 million. The appeal constituted a key complement to the appeal launched for Sierra Leone in November (see p. 864).

Liberia

In a June report on assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia [A/55/90-E/2000/81], the Secretary-General said that the path to sustainable peace and recovery in the war-torn country remained uncertain, owing mainly to problems of governance and inadequate external support to the country's reconstruction programme. International assistance was geared towards building capacity for participatory and accountable governance and recreating a social safety net for the population. It also focused on rebuilding capacity for essential governmental operations, including the restoration of the effectiveness of the court system and confidence in the rule of law. The Secretary-General described UN assistance in the areas of governance, security and the rule of law; macro-economic reform and stabilization; resettlement, repatriation and reintegration; health; education; community revival and restoration; food security; and gender concerns.

The Secretary-General said that an assessment mission jointly led by the World Bank and UNDP in...
1999 had concluded that significant progress had been made in implementing the first phase of the Government's National Reconstruction Programme, presented in 1998 [Y UN 1998, p. 850]. Some 90 per cent of the $230 million pledged in 1998 was being utilized. The overall security situation had improved and there were positive results from the resettlement of the conflict-affected population and rehabilitation of the war-ravaged social infrastructure. Progress had been made in stabilizing the macroeconomic environment through far-reaching monetary, fiscal and structural policy reforms. However, major infrastructures, such as the electricity grid, communications system and roads, remained dysfunctional, while the financial system and weak capacity in all sectors further constrained the recovery process.

The Secretary-General observed that the country's major challenge was consolidating the peace and addressing problems emanating from the conflict and the social disparity and ethnic divisions that fuelled the conflict. The presence of a large number of unemployed youth and former combatants in urban areas continued to threaten long-term stability, as did the economic base, which was at only one third of its pre-war level. The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly reaffirm resolution 53/1 [YUN 1998, p. 850], which called for further support for rehabilitation and reconstruction in Liberia.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 19 December [meeting 86], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/176 [draft: A/55/L.66 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 120 (b)].

**Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia**

The General Assembly:


Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Commending the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations for their collaborative efforts with the Government of Liberia in its peace-building objectives,

Realizing that the restoration of peace has not brought rapid and sustainable social and economic recovery, despite programmes initiated by the Government aimed at reconciliation and reconstruction,

1. Expresses its gratitude to all donor countries, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the European Union, the Bretton Woods institutions and non-governmental organizations for their participation in a joint mission held in Monrovia from 15 to 19 November 1999 to assess the National Reconstruction Programme and the use of donor funds committed at the 1998 Donors' Conference for the reconstruction of Liberia, and urges those that have not yet honoured their pledges and commitment to do so;

2. Also expresses its gratitude to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance and support for the peace-building process in Liberia, and urges that such assistance be continued;

3. Calls upon all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to Liberia to facilitate the implementation of its National Reconstruction Programme submitted at the Donors' Conference;

4. Urges the Government of Liberia to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of socioeconomic development and a culture of sustained peace in the country, including a commitment to upholding the rule of law, national reconciliation and human rights and to implementing ways and means of reducing tension and promoting sustainable and peaceful political development in the subregion;

5. Urges the United Nations system and all States, in working towards the reconstruction and development of Liberia, to direct their assistance to or through intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

6. Renews its appeal to the Government of Liberia to cooperate with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction, and stresses the need for the Government of Liberia to assist and protect the civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, regardless of their origin;

7. Calls upon all parties to respect fully the provisions of international humanitarian law and in this regard to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of Liberia and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;

8. Commends the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to mobilize international assistance for the development and reconstruction of Liberia, and requests him to continue his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help in the reconstruction and development of Liberia, including the return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and demobilized soldiers;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. Decides to consider at its fifty-seventh session the question of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

**Sierra Leone**

The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for Sierra Leone, launched in 1999, which initially sought $71 million for the period January to December 2000, was revised to $64.3 million in June. The donor community covered 67.6 per cent, or $43.5 million, of the revised appeal.
The security situation in Sierra Leone and the subregion remained precarious (see p. 189). Sporadic skirmishes between the main rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), and the Civil Defence Forces continued in some areas. Interventions in small enclaves surrounded by RUF were intermittent and limited due to poor security and difficult road access. Reports from rebel-controlled areas, which comprised half the country, indicated severe food shortages and the rampant spread of disease. Subregional tensions between and within Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire threatened to deteriorate into a large-scale complex emergency. In November, OCHA launched a UN consolidated interagency appeal for $78.1 million to cover January to December 2001.

Asia

Afghanistan

Despite efforts on several fronts, political resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan remained elusive (see p. 262). Sporadic fighting continued and the traditional intensification of fighting had occurred in the summer months in the north and central districts. Insecurity continued to constrain the provision of assistance. The economy continued to deteriorate, fostering poverty and unemployment. The firman (edict) restricting the employment of Afghan women in UN and NGO programmes, with the exception of the health sector, affected several thousand women who had been working throughout the assistance community. The extremely low level of precipitation had destroyed nearly all the rain-fed crops and decimated the livestock (see p. 271 for drought assistance).

In response to a consolidated appeal, launched in 1999 for $220.8 million to cover January to December 2000, the donor community contributed $106.8 million, or 48.38 per cent of the requirements.

A UN consolidated appeal covering 2001, which sought $229.2 million, was launched in November.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/189 B [YUN 1999, p. 838], the Secretary-General, in an August report [A/55/348] covering developments from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, reviewed major humanitarian and socio-economic developments. He described assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners in the areas of food aid and food security, health, water and sanitation, education, mine action, food and agriculture, rural and urban rehabilitation, voluntary repatriation, drug control and human rights. The Secretary-General concluded that the combination of war, drought and displacement was likely to take a toll in the coming months. He noted that, apart from the humanitarian assistance, there were few responses to Afghanistan’s huge rehabilitation and reconstruction needs.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION


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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/195 A of 17 December 1996, 52/211 A of 19 December 1997, 53/203 B of 18 December 1998 and 54/189 B of 17 December 1999, Expressing its grave concern about the continuation of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, threatening regional peace and security and causing massive loss of life and extensive human suffering, further destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people, as well as the failure of all warring parties, in particular the Taliban, to stop the fighting,

Noting with deep concern the worst drought for decades, which affects large parts of Afghanistan and risks dramatically exacerbating the already fragile humanitarian situation,

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance as well as the continued laying of new anti-personnel landmines in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons from returning to their villages and working in their fields,

Noting with deep concern that the majority of the Afghan people are unable to enjoy fully their human rights and fundamental freedoms owing to the accumulated effects of warfare, further aggravated by ongoing fighting and destruction, in particular by the Taliban, searing poverty, profound underdevelopment, and the policies and practices of the authorities,

Expressing its grave concern at the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular by the Taliban in Afghanistan and at the inadequacy of measures taken by the warring factions to reverse the situation,

Deeply concerned by the continuing and substantiated reports of violations of human rights, in particular of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban,

Welcoming the ongoing work of gender and human rights advisers appointed by the United Nations, who form an integral part of the office of the United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,
Noting with alarm that the resumption of fighting by the Taliban during the past summer led to further displacement of civilian populations, especially in the provinces of Baghlan and Takhar, and expressing its grave concern for the well-being of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable sections of the civilian population, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods as a result of the drought and the recent fighting, as well as the repeated denial by the warring factions of adequate conditions for the delivery of aid by humanitarian organizations, Affirming the urgent need to continue international humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan for the restoration of basic services, as well as the need for the conflicting parties to guarantee the safety and security of the personnel of all international organizations, Welcoming the principle-centred approach towards humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation in Afghanistan, as outlined in the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, and the consolidated appeals as tools to promote greater effectiveness and coherence in international aid programmes, and welcoming also the establishment of the independent strategic monitoring units, Deeply disturbed by the continuing security threat to United Nations personnel and other humanitarian personnel, including locally engaged staff, and by the fact that the authorities continue to limit their access to affected populations in certain areas, Noting with deep concern the substantial restrictions introduced by the Taliban authorities on the operations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that provide humanitarian, economic rehabilitation and development assistance in Afghanistan, and noting in particular the negative impact these restrictions have on the provision of assistance to groups in need of special protection, especially women and children, Noting with deep concern also that a significant number of Afghan refugees remain in neighbouring countries, as conditions in many parts of Afghanistan are currently not conducive to a safe and sustainable return, and acknowledging that those refugees constitute a continuing socio-economic burden for the host countries, Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular those of neighbouring countries that continue to host Afghan refugee populations, and at the same time again calling upon all parties to continue to honour their obligations for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and to allow international access for their protection and care, Recognizing the need for continuing international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, and welcoming the voluntary return of refugees to rural districts in Afghanistan that are relatively stable and secure and not severely affected by the drought, Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system, and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively, and continue to respond, where conditions permit, to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance, 1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, and endorses the observations contained therein; 2. Stresses that the responsibility for the humanitarian crisis lies with all warring parties, in particular with the Taliban; 3. Strongly condemns the resumption of major fighting by the Taliban during the past summer, especially in the Taloqan area and the Shomali Plains, resulting in further forcible displacement of civilian populations and destruction of infrastructure; 4. Notes with alarm numerous reports of the Taliban troops deliberately destroying, burning and looting homes and assets of civilians essential for their survival in the battle zones; 5. Urges all parties, in particular the Taliban, to end immediately all armed hostilities, and calls upon the leaders of all Afghan parties to place the highest priority on national reconciliation, acknowledging the desire of the Afghan people for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic and social development; 6. Calls upon all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely their humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan on the basis of the principles laid out in the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, in particular to assure a consistent approach to the implementation of these principles, human rights and security, and appeals to donor countries as well as other humanitarian organizations to cooperate closely within the framework of the United Nations, taking into account the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to Afghanistan for 2001; 7. Strongly condemns the killing of seven Afghan employees of the United Nations-supported mine awareness programme by unidentified gunmen, as well as recent acts of violence and intimidation against United Nations personnel and offices; 8. Urges all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to respect international humanitarian law, to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel as well as their safe and unimpeded access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, so as to facilitate their work; 9. Calls upon the Taliban authorities to implement fully the Supplementary Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding of 13 May 1998, signed by the United Nations and the Taliban, on the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan; 10. Demands that all Afghan parties cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other agencies and humanitarian organizations in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan; 11. Condemns all interference in the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies, and demands the secure and uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to all in need of it, especially in the Panjshir valley; 12. Strongly condemns substantial restrictions introduced by the Taliban authorities on the operations of the United Nations, in particular the recent decree of
law banning the employment of Afghan women in the United Nations and non-governmental programmes, except in the health sector;

13. Calls upon the Taliban authorities to cooperate fully and without discrimination on grounds of gender, nationality or religion with the United Nations and associated bodies and with other humanitarian organizations, agencies and non-governmental organizations;

14. Denounces the continuing discrimination against girls and women as well as ethnic and religious groups, including minorities, and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban, notes with deep concern their adverse effects on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan, and calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, inter alia, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and to refrain from all attempts to single out minorities;

15. Strongly urges all the Afghan parties to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of women and men, including their rights to full and equal participation in the life of the country, freedom of movement, access to education and health facilities, employment outside the home, personal security and freedom from intimidation and harassment, in particular with respect to the implications of discriminatory policies for the distribution of aid, notwithstanding some progress made with respect to access to education and health care for girls and women;

16. Urges all Afghan parties to prohibit conscripting or enlisting children or using them to participate in hostilities in violation of the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

17. Appeals to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates a gender perspective, that it actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and that women benefit equally with men from such assistance;

18. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, appeals to the Governments concerned to reaffirm their commitment to international refugee law on the rights of asylum and protection, and calls upon the international community to do likewise;

19. Recognizes the high number of refugees in neighbouring countries, and calls upon the international community to consider providing further assistance to Afghan refugees;

20. Expresses concern over the continued laying of anti-personnel landmines, which continues to take a heavy toll on civilians and seriously impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and urges all Afghan parties to call a complete halt to the use of landmines, as well as to fulfill their duties to cooperate with the United Nations mine action programme and to protect their personnel;

21. Urgently appeals to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, when conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population, especially in the areas most affected by the drought, and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

22. Calls upon the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan, launched by the Secretary-General on 29 November 2000 for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2001, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

24. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

**East Timor**

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/96 H [YUN 1999, p. 840], the Secretary-General, in September [A/55/418], reviewed humanitarian developments and sector requirements and assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners in East Timor, beginning with the last quarter of 1999.

The Secretary-General reported that, in recognition of the need to ensure the early phase-in of development activities, a joint assessment mission, comprising experts from UN agencies, the East Timorese community, donors, the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and led by the World Bank, took place from mid-October to mid-November 1999. The mission identified priority short-term reconstruction needs and provided estimates of external financing requirements. The mission's findings were presented at a donor conference convened under the auspices of the Government of Japan (Tokyo, 16-17 December 1999). The amount of external financing requirements presented for humanitarian, reconstruction and development activities for East Timor totalled $878.3 million over a three-year period. The total pledged at the conference was $522.4 million, of which $148.9 million was for humanitarian assistance and $373.4 million for development activities. A follow-up conference was organized on 22 and 23 June 2000, hosted by the Government of Portugal and co-chaired by the World Bank and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Donors expressed support for the activities of the Trust Fund for East Timor, administered by the
The process was facilitated in the early stages of the humanitarian community and OCHA. Subsequently, responsibility was transferred, effective 1 January 2000, to the UNTAET humanitarian assistance and emergency rehabilitation component.

The Secretary-General concluded that the engagement of the international community would be required to ensure that programmes continued to benefit the people of East Timor and to pave the way to self-reliance and sustainable development.

**UNDP action.** On 25 January [E/2000/35 (dec. 2000/2)], the Executive Board of UNDP/United Nations Population Fund approved the allocation of $5 million from the target for resource allocation from the core to meet immediate needs for assistance for 1999-2000 and the authority to make future allocations according to the formula applied to other programme countries.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/172 [draft: A/55/L.65 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

**Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for East Timor**

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its relevant resolutions on the situation in East Timor, in particular resolutions 54/96 H of 15 December 1999 and 54/194 of 17 December 1999,

Recalling also its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling further all of the relevant Security Council resolutions and decisions on the situation in East Timor, in particular resolutions 1272(1999) of 25 October 1999 and 1319(2000) of 8 September 2000,

Recalling the establishment by Security Council resolution 1272(1999) of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, whose mandate includes the coordination and delivery of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development assistance,

Welcoming the response of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, with the coordination of the Transitional Administration since 1 January 2000, and in cooperation with the East Timorese people, in terms of addressing the humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development needs of East Timor,

Acknowledging the progress made in the transition from relief to development in East Timor and, in this regard, the important role played by the Transitional Administration in supporting the resilient and determined efforts of the East Timorese people themselves,

Welcoming the progress that has been made in alleviating the humanitarian assistance needs of East Timor, while noting continuing requirements for food and shelter assistance,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Government of Indonesia and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to the East Timorese refugees in the province of East Nusa Tenggara, West Timor, and in this respect recognizing the importance of the international community in assisting the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to implement resettlement and repatriation programmes of East Timorese refugees,

Emphasizing the need for continued international assistance to East Timor to support the transition from relief and rehabilitation to development, in preparation for independence, and recognizing the significant challenges that are to be faced in this regard, inter alia, in the education, health, agriculture and infrastructure sectors,

Deploring the killing of three personnel of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Atambua on 6 September 2000, which resulted in the withdrawal from West Timor of United Nations and other international humanitarian personnel, and welcoming in this respect the steps taken by the Government of Indonesia towards conducting a full-scale investigation, taking firm measures against those found guilty and ensuring a safe and secure environment,

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

2. Encourages the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, with the coordination of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, and in close consultation and cooperation with the East Timorese people, to continue to collaborate to address the remaining humanitarian relief needs of East Timor, and to support the transition from relief and rehabilitation to development in preparation for independence;

3. Emphasizes the importance of continuing close consultation with and participation of East Timorese institutions and civil society, including local non-governmental organizations, in the planning and delivery of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development assistance to East Timor;

4. Welcomes the establishment of the East Timor National Council as an interim step towards a democratic legislative institution as well as the appointment of a joint cabinet to increase Timorese participation in the Administration;

5. Urges United Nations organizations, the international community and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts aimed at the enhanced ownership and participation of the East Timorese, known as "Timorization" in East Timor, of the social, economic and administrative infrastructure, and in this regard stresses the need for capacity-building, inter alia, in areas such as education, health, agriculture and rural development, the judiciary, governance and public administration, security and law and order;

6. Commends Member States for their prompt response to the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for the East Timor crises, which was launched on 27 October 1999, and urges Member
States to fulfill their pledges to meet the external financing requirements for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development activities for East Timor;

7. Welcomes in this regard the convening of the Donors Meetings for East Timor in Tokyo on 16 and 17 December 1999, and in Lisbon on 22 and 23 June 2000, as well as the meeting in Brussels on 5 and 6 December 2000 which focused on the transition towards independence in East Timor in four key areas: political, public administration, public finances, and economic and social reconstruction;

8. Encourages continued international support in all sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, health and education to assist the efforts of East Timor towards sustainable development, particularly in its transition to independence;

9. Welcomes the immediate response to food aid needs by the international community, urges it to continue to ensure food security for the remaining vulnerable groups in need, and calls upon the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to assist the East Timorese in ensuring sustainable development in the areas of agriculture, livestock and fisheries;

10. Recommends that outstanding infrastructure needs remain an essential focus of international assistance in such areas as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of public buildings, educational facilities, roads and public services;

11. Commends the rapid international response in terms of providing health services to the general population, including the early deployment of immunization and disease prevention programmes, and reproductive health care and child nutrition programmes, while recognizing the need for further assistance to rebuild hospitals and for training health-care professionals;

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

13. Stresses the urgent need for sustained and enhanced efforts by the Government of Indonesia, the Transitional Administration and the international community effectively and comprehensively to resolve the question of the East Timorese refugees by the repatriation or resettlement of all those refugees, in conditions of safety and security at all stages, and based on their voluntary decisions, through the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to guarantee effective security in the West Timor camps, by the promotion of a credible and internationally observed registration process, and by the promotion of and support for reconciliation among all East Timorese;

14. Acknowledges the efforts of the Government of Indonesia, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and other humanitarian organizations, to facilitate organized and spontaneous returns of East Timorese refugees from West Timor, including the repatriation of the former Indonesian military reservists known as Milsas, and underscores the importance of continued international assistance to support the efforts of the Government of Indonesia and relevant organizations to meet the needs of East Timorese refugees in West Timor, inter alia, by assisting their voluntary repatriation or resettlement;

15. Reaffirms the need to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and assistance to all those in need and to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel in West Timor, recognizes in this regard the steps taken and the efforts being made by the Government of Indonesia to implement Security Council resolution 1319(2000), such as the ongoing disarming and disbanding of the militias, the deploying of additional security apparatus and the bringing to justice of those found guilty, and calls upon the Government to continue to strengthen such efforts in full cooperation with Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

16. Urges the United Nations to continue to address the humanitarian, rehabilitation and development needs of East Timor;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Indonesia

Maluku

The conflict in Maluku between Muslim and Christian communities, which erupted in January 1999, cost thousands of lives and forced over 500,000 people to leave their homes. Some 215,000 displaced persons were reported in Maluku province and a further 207,000 in North Maluku, representing about 25 per cent of the population of the two provinces. Towards the latter part of the year, the region, made up of islands scattered across more than 1,200 square kilometres, had fewer clashes, yet tension persisted in many parts of the archipelago and few people felt secure enough to return to their homes. Many within the affected displaced population had been unable to support themselves and relied on outside assistance. In March, OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal totalling $14.1 million to cover 16 March to 30 September 2000, of which some $8.2 million, or 50 per cent, of requirements were met. A further appeal, covering January to December 2001, sought $10.8 million for multisectoral activities.

West Timor

A UN consolidated inter-agency appeal that initially sought $28 million for West Timor from October 1999 to December 2000 was revised in June to $46.2 million, mainly to find durable solutions for East Timorese refugees in Indonesia, through either voluntary repatriation or local set-
tlement in West Timor, or elsewhere in Indonesia, and to give increased aid to host communities in West Timor. As at 23 May, funds received totalled $21.1 million, or 45.7 per cent of requirements.

Kazakhstan

In a July report [A/55/212], the Secretary-General said that the international donor community had delivered humanitarian and development assistance to the affected population of the Semipalatinsk region, a former nuclear testing range in Kazakhstan (the Polygon), since the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 52/169 M [YUN 1997, p. 911] and 53/1 H [YUN 1998, p. 859], which called on the international community to contribute to the region’s human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development.

The Tokyo International Conference on Semipalatinsk (Tokyo, 6-7 September 1999), jointly hosted by Japan and UNDP, aimed to raise awareness of the situation in the region and of the consequences of nuclear testing; appeal for further assistance; consider cooperation and coordination of the international community; and inform participants of the institutional arrangements of Kazakhstan to manage, coordinate, use and account for international assistance. An integrated Semipalatinsk Relief and Rehabilitation Programme, consisting of 38 impact-oriented actions for relief and rehabilitation in the areas of health, the environment and ecology, economic recovery, humanitarian issues, and information and advocacy, was distributed to the donor community prior to the Conference. The Conference pledged more than $20 million to assist the Programme.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 November [meeting 71], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/44 [draft: A/55/L.16 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997 and 53/1 H of 16 November 1998,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,

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

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

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

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

Recalling the Almaty Declaration of the heads of the Central Asian States of 28 February 1997, proclaiming 1998 as the Year of Environmental Protection in the region of Central Asia,

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

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

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and the information about the measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems and to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region;
2. Stresses the need for continuing international attention and extra efforts in solving problems with regard to the Semipalatinsk region and its population;
3. Urges the international community to provide assistance in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population in the Semipalatinsk region;
4. Invites all States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;
5. Invites all Member States, in particular donor States, relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, to participate in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region;
6. Invites the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;
7. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief
assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance”.

Tajikistan

Following the first multiparty parliamentary elections in Tajikistan (see p. 314), the country entered a new phase of nation-building, based on national reconciliation. However, those developments occurred against a backdrop of economic decline and infrastructure collapse that threatened to undermine further consolidation of the peace process. The overall situation worsened due to a severe drought that threatened the food security of more than a million people.

OCHA issued a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal that sought $34.8 million for January to December 2000, of which $27 million, or 77.6 per cent of requirements, was met by the donor community. In November, OHCHR issued an inter-agency appeal covering January to December 2001 for a total of $82 million.

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/96 A [YUN 1999, p. 842], the Secretary-General, in August [A/55/347], described Tajikistan’s current political and economic situation and humanitarian operations.

The Secretary-General observed that despite the conclusion of the peace process and improvement in the security environment, limited social and economic progress had been achieved. Access to food and basic social services had been further limited by deteriorating economic conditions and the prevailing drought. Humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance remained crucial, not only to sustain life but also to promote development and prevent renewed conflict. The UN team in the country was re-evaluating its activities to prepare a common strategy to support relief and recovery activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 November [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/45 [draft: A/55/L.41 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and rehabilitation in Tajikistan

The General Assembly,


Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the implementation of the main provisions of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the United Nations has played a successful and important role in the peace process and was instrumental in assisting the negotiation and implementation processes conducted under its aegis, believing that the United Nations should continue the assistance to Tajikistan in post-conflict peace-building, and welcoming in this regard the establishment of the United Nations Tajikistan Office for Peace-building,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, which should be regarded as a successful operation, supported by the Contact Group of Guarantor States and International Organizations, the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in assisting the parties in the implementation of the General Agreement,

Noting that, despite the conclusion of the peace process and significant progress in the security environment, the humanitarian situation has not improved, owing to the severe economic deterioration and the prevailing drought, and that significant humanitarian needs continue to exist throughout Tajikistan,

Recognizing that until the economy is able to support the Tajik population, humanitarian operations will remain a critical factor in strengthening the achievements of the peace process in Tajikistan,

Expressing regret that, despite the importance of humanitarian operations for contributing to peace and stability, donor response to both the 1999 and the 2000 consolidated inter-agency appeals has been insufficient,

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

Noting with concern the lack of support for food assistance and health programmes, which aim to save lives and must receive immediate funding if social catastrophe is to be avoided in Tajikistan,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;
2. Welcomes the implementation of the main provisions of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, and the end of the transition period;
3. Also welcomes the continued role of the United Nations in post-conflict peace-building in Tajikistan and the establishment of the United Nations Tajikistan Office for Peace-building;
4. Stresses that Tajikistan has entered a new phase of post-conflict peace-building, which requires continued international economic assistance;
5. Recognizes that humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance remains crucial, not only to sustain life but also to promote development and prevent renewed conflict;
6. Welcomes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General in drawing the attention of the international community to the acute humanitarian problems of Tajikistan and in mobilizing assist-
ance for the post-conflict rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of the country;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the States, the United Nations, the World Bank and other intergovernmental organizations and all relevant humanitarian organizations, agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, that have responded and continue to respond positively to the humanitarian needs of Tajikistan;

8. Encourages Member States and others concerned to continue assistance to alleviate the urgent humanitarian needs of Tajikistan and to offer support to Tajikistan for the post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction of its economy;

9. Warmly welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to continue the United Nations humanitarian programme in Tajikistan by issuing a consolidated inter-agency appeal for humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan for 2001, as a strategic document that will guide a gradual transition to a more development-oriented focus, and invites Member States to fund programmes included in the appeal;

10. Calls upon the Secretary-General to re-evaluate in 2001 all humanitarian assistance activities in Tajikistan with a view to addressing longer-term developmental issues;

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

12. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to give special attention, in the dialogue with the multilateral lending institutions, to the humanitarian implications of their adjustment programmes in Tajikistan;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Tajikistan and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

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

Europe

Northern Caucasus (Russian Federation)

The flash appeal issued in 1999 for the northern Caucasus, which sought $16.2 million and covered 1 December 1999 to 29 February 2000, was revised to $11.6 million and extended to 31 December 2000. As at 10 October, the donor community had committed $40.4 million, or 78.3 per cent of the requirements.

The humanitarian consequences of the events in the northern Caucasus continued to affect the lives of some 330,000 internally displaced persons and up to 690,000 residents in the Republics of Chechnya and of Ingushetia. There was little prospect for the return of the displaced population from Ingushetia to Chechnya during the 2000/01 winter. Assistance needs of the population in Chechnya remained largely unmet. On 16 August, the Russian Federation and the United Nations signed a memorandum of understanding, which established a firm basis for the United Nations to provide humanitarian assistance in the northern Caucasus.

In November, OCHA launched a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for $44.9 million to cover programmes from 1 January to 31 December 2001.

South-Eastern Europe (Albania and the former Yugoslavia)

The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal, issued in 1999 for South-Eastern Europe—Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)—which sought $660 million to cover January to December 2000, was revised to $629 million, as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reduced its budget through prioritization. As at 31 October, $305.4 million, or 48.6 per cent of the requirements, had been committed. Resources were limited in 2000 due to reduced donor funding and the phasing out of bilateral actors.

Albania was transited by a large number of illegal migrants who might claim asylum and overburden the asylum system. Although some progress was made in disentangling asylum, trafficking and illegal economic migration, resources received were insufficient to meet the ongoing needs in the economically and security-troubled country. Assistance was needed to further institutional reform, curb illegal migration and trafficking, and extend international protection to those without Albanian citizenship. Bosnia and Herzegovina was affected negatively by the increased numbers of spontaneous minority returns, partly as a result of improved levels of implementation of property laws and the impact of underfunding the consolidated appeal for 2000, particularly programmes required to make such returns viable. A more favourable political situation and improved security conditions in Croatia facilitated the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as support for peace-building and community reconciliation. Nevertheless, the funding shortfall affected the levels of protection and assistance provided, particularly to returnees in war-affected areas. In FRY, funding shortfalls forced many agencies to scale down their planned operations. Political constraints also limited the impact of the human-
Economic and social questions

Objective set for the Kosovo province of FRY were in education, health and social welfare sectors. In FYROM, rehabilitation of quality basic services in the education, health and social welfare sectors. In FYROM, host family fatigue increased towards the end of the year. Efforts were made to integrate vulnerable groups, but the remaining refugee population remained dependent on humanitarian organizations whose resources were limited.

In November, a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal sought $429 million for January to December 2001.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/96 F [YUN 1999, p. 844], the Secretary-General, in September [A/55/416], reviewed humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights developments in FRY from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. He described assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners.

Humanitarian efforts in FRY were carried out against a background of political complexities. Given Serbia's international isolation, assistance there had been limited to humanitarian aid. Montenegro was shifting to transitional initiatives. Although the international community had scored impressive achievements in Kosovo, the goal of promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence among ethnic groups had proved elusive. The Secretary-General concluded that until the underlying political and economic problems could be resolved, the United Nations would continue efforts to address the urgent needs of affected populations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/169 [draft: A/55/L.57 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

Humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also its resolution 54/96 F of 15 December 1999,

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

Deeply concerned about the continuing urgency of the humanitarian situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, aware of the magnitude of the humanitarian requirements of the country, and recognizing the need to ensure effective links between relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Aware of the persisting gravity of the situation of socially and economically vulnerable segments of the population, including refugees and displaced persons, coupled with significantly decreased social services capacity, especially in the health sector,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note also of the report prepared by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in Belgrade entitled "Background on the Energy Sector in Serbia for Winter 2000-2001",

Recognizing the role of the United Nations in solving the humanitarian problems facing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in coordinating the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the country,

Welcoming the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe on 26 October 2000,

Welcoming also the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to membership in the United Nations on 1 November 2000,

1. Calls upon all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially during the coming winter months, bearing in mind in particular the special situation of women, as well as children and other vulnerable groups;

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

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

5. Emphasizes the importance of strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, inter alia, through the mechanisms of a consolidated inter-agency appeal, and recognizes in this regard especially the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;

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

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

Special economic assistance

African economic recovery and development

During its discussion of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits, the Economic and Social Council, in July, considered a June report of the Secretary-General [E/2000/69] on the implementation of its agreed conclusions 1999/2 on the development of Africa [YUN 1999, p. 845].

Regarding consistency of coordination mechanisms, the report stated that the main modality for increased efficiency continued to be the promotion of coherent UN system support for countries in Africa, with a view to strengthening national capacity and supporting the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major international conferences of the 1990s. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) played an important role in that effort. Coordination mechanisms developed to harmonize development assistance provided by the UN system and interfaced with Governments included the resident coordinator system, the common country assessment, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and thematic groups. By the end of 2000, it was envisaged that 44 common country assessments and 19 UNDAFs would be completed in Africa.

With respect to country coverage, the cluster concept of the United Nations Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (see p. 874), which assigned responsibility to agencies as either coordinating or cooperating agencies, provided an opportunity for effective coordination and coherence. In the education cluster, led by the World Bank, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNICEF, an joint strategy for 16 low-enrolment countries had been developed and support for education sector development plans had been provided to Africa. In the cluster on harnessing information technology for development, national information and communication infrastructure plans had been approved in 10 countries, and 12 countries were in the process of preparing plans. A number of country teams had been working on coordinated responses to situations that fluctuated between crisis and development, or where the prospects of renewed crisis were considerable. Gender, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, girls' education, poverty reduction, food security and disaster mitigation were examples of where collaboration crossed organizational boundaries to include different partners, various regions and a mixture of coordination instruments. Some agencies were working directly with regional and subregional organizations. Significant effort had been made to ensure the consistency of the various coordination mechanisms.

As to ownership of development assistance, the UN system, having established the common country assessment and UNDAF as coordination mechanisms, had started identifying the next wave of challenges, the most important of which was the need to continue efforts to ensure and improve government participation. Although it was too early to assess the impact of the two mechanisms, most country teams reported enhanced collaboration with local stakeholders, including Governments. While efforts to expand country ownership had increased, there was still much progress to be made, especially regarding the active participation of Governments in coordination meetings. The development of sector-wide approaches in Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda had fostered country ownership, with various partners supporting a single policy thrust as articulated by the Government. Weakness in institutional capacity and statistical data limitations were the main constraints to the full ownership of development assistance.

For the UN system, the framework for global coordination was the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which ad-
addressed the priority areas critical to promoting recovery, growth and sustainable development. The 1998 report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa [YUN 1998, p. 66] and its follow-up by the UN system (see p. 116) was also a framework for addressing some of the key priority areas, with the goal of not just economic recovery and development but also a durable peace. The Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs functioned as a point of coordination, and UNDG served to facilitate the coordination and harmonization of the various Africa initiatives to the extent that UNDAF and its coordination mechanisms integrated elements of the various programmes and initiatives of bilateral development agencies. The UN system continued to work with the regional and subregional organizations in defining common priorities at the policy and operational levels. Regarding a request contained in agreed conclusions 1999/2 to the Secretary-General to commission an independent evaluation of the New Agenda, the Office of the Special Coordinator, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Africa Recovery Unit of the Department of Public Information had jointly engaged in monitoring its implementation. The Office of the Special Coordinator was taking the lead in preparing a report on progress achieved in strengthening African capacity to coordinate international development assistance at the country level and at the subregional and regional levels, and in developing country-specific as well as comprehensive coordination mechanisms.

The report concluded that it was too early to assess UN reform in the area of coordination and harmonization, especially in Africa, but significant improvements had been made that had strengthened the overall contribution of the UN system to development in the region. Improved coordination frameworks had potential for the better management of programmes, but there was still a need to clarify and strengthen the links among them. The effects of the decline in core resources and its negative impact on human resources required to monitor programme implementation might undermine initial successes achieved thus far.

By decision 2000/290 of 28 July, the Council took note of the Secretary-General's report.

New Agenda for the Development of Africa


UNCTAD action. The twenty-fifth executive session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (TDB) (Geneva, 22 September) [A/55/15 (Pan III)] considered an August report by the UNCTAD Secretary-General [TD/B/KX(25)/2], containing an overview of UNCTAD research and analysis with regard to African development. The report summarized specific activities, including advisory services and technical cooperation, in each sector falling under UNCTAD's mandate. The UNCTAD Secretary-General noted that in the light of the Board's 1999 agreed conclusions [YU 1999, p. 848], the UNCTAD secretariat had undertaken a study on capital flows and growth in Africa [UNCTAD/GDS/MDPB/7], which argued that growth in Africa continued to be too erratic and too slow to permit an increase in both living standards and domestic savings. The study discussed the policy approaches needed to ensure that aid was effectively translated into investment and growth, keeping in mind the policy mistakes made during the pre- and post-adjustment periods.

At its forty-seventh session (Geneva, 9-20 October) [A/55/15 (agreed conclusions 460(XLVII))], TDB stated that the average growth rate attained in the 1990s for Africa had been 2.4 per cent yearly, far below the average annual growth rate of at least 6 per cent, established as an objective of the New Agenda and needed to achieve sustained and sustainable economic growth and equitable development. It recommended increased foreign capital flows, both private and official, and institutional reforms to reverse capital flight. Foreign direct investment should be encouraged through the promotion of cooperation between industrialized countries and Africa, and efforts should be taken to mitigate the negative perception that prevented reforming countries from reaping the benefits of their efforts and to attract greater foreign capital flows. Concessional resources akin to ODA were required to address the structural rigidities that constrained Africa's development effort, especially human resources capacities development and poverty alleviation, as well as the extension of physical infrastructure and production capacities. Efforts were needed to increase ODA and to maintain a substantial level of ODA flows to fill the investment gap; over the longer term, private capital flows and domestic savings should replace official financing, thereby reducing the aid dependence of African countries.

The Board noted that Africa's external debt had grown at a very high rate; the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the goal of bringing an additional 10...
HIPC's to decision point by year's end were a welcome development. The Board observed that African countries needed to adopt policies to ensure the efficient use of existing and additional resources to develop human capital and social and physical infrastructure. The report on capital flows and growth in Africa (see p. 874) and a summary of the Board's discussions of the report should serve as an input to the preparatory process for the UN high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development (see p. 915), as well as for the review of the New Agenda, scheduled for 2002.


A majority of African countries had made substantial progress in applying appropriate macro-economic policies, promoting the private sector and intensifying the democratization process, yet more improvements were needed in those areas. Africa still lagged behind other developing regions in foreign direct investment, and recommendations on its debt problem had not been fully implemented despite various initiatives. Progress was limited in trade facilitation and market access, due largely to supply constraints, including lack of competitiveness of African products. Progress had been achieved in agriculture and food production, as well as in education, health, population, gender, environment and development. A number of factors continued to hinder the effective implementation of the recommendations of the mid-term review. African countries needed to increase their share in global trade and improve their domestic savings and investment through increased revenue mobilization and improved financial intermediation. The final review and appraisal of the New Agenda was scheduled for 2002.

An addendum to the Secretary-General's report [A/55/350/Add.1], on mobilization of additional resources for African development, noted that between 1992 and 1998 net aggregate resource flows to Africa were erratic, fluctuating from $22.2 billion in 1992 to a high of $28.2 billion in 1995, and thereafter declining to $23.4 billion in 1996. They increased to $26 billion in 1997, but declined steeply to $17.1 billion in 1998, or by 22 per cent annually from 1995 to 1998. The report said that there were indications of some improvement in external resource flows to Africa in 1999.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 21 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/216 [draft: A/55/L.68 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 30].

**Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s**

The General Assembly.

Having considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and its addendum on mobilization of additional resources for African development, a study on overall resource flows to Africa,

Recalling its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993, 49/142 of 23 December 1994 and 53/90 of 7 December 1998 on the implementation of the New Agenda, as well as its resolution 51/32 of 6 December 1996 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa submitted to the Security Council and the General Assembly in 1998 and its resolution 54/234 of 22 December 1999 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as the recommendations of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, established by the General Assembly to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling that, while the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries, the international community has a stake in it and in supporting the efforts of those countries in that regard,

Welcoming recent efforts and initiatives of the United Nations on Africa, in particular, the meeting of the Security Council on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in Africa, held in January 2000, section VII of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on meeting the special needs of Africa, the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council to be held in July 2001, as well as other events on development that will address issues of particular importance for Africa, such as the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be hosted by the European Union in Brussels in May 2001, the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS scheduled for June 2001, the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development and the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Welcoming also the strong partnership between European Union and African countries through the Cairo
Declaratin and Plan of Action, as well as the Cotonou Agreement of 23 June 2000, with its financial commitments, between the members of the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, which is mainly composed of African countries.

Welcoming further the support by the international community, including the Beijing Declaration and Programme for China-Africa Cooperation in Economic and Social Development, adopted by the China-Africa Cooperation Forum on 12 October 2000, the United States of America Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, as well as the Ministerial Conference of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development on the follow-up of the implementation of the Tokyo Agenda for Action, scheduled for 2001 or early 2002,

Taking note with great concern of the debt burden of many African countries, as debt servicing continues to drain the limited resources for development,

Reaffirming the need for the integration of African countries into the international trading system by highlighting the importance of creating, at the national and international levels, an environment that is conducive to attracting foreign direct investment and promoting international trade as engines of growth and development,

Expressing its concern at the overall declining trends of resource flows to Africa, in particular the low levels of foreign direct investment and official development assistance, which have seriously constrained, among other things, the timely implementation of the New Agenda,

Recognizing the crucial need for a substantial increase in financial resource flows to Africa to support the implementation of development activities of African countries,

1. 'Takes note with appreciation of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and its addendum on the mobilization of additional resources for African development, a study on overall resource flows to Africa;

2. Recognizes and calls for further broadening and strengthening of efforts by many African countries to enhance progress in areas covering economic reforms, including the putting in place of sound macro-economic policies, promotion of the private sector, enhancement of the democratization process and strengthening of civil society and participatory, transparent and accountable governance and the rule of law, as well as increased attention to the human dimension, especially education, gender, population, health and south-south cooperation;

3. Expresses its grave concern at the limited progress in many other areas, such as poverty eradication, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis and, in particular, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the combating of drought and desertification, infrastructure development, institutional capacity for regional cooperation and integration, environment and development and conflict prevention, management and resolution;

4. Urges the implementation of the enhanced programme of debt relief to heavily indebted poor countries without delay and the cancellation of all the official bilateral debt of those countries in the context of poverty eradication, in return for a demonstrable commitment by them to poverty reduction as part of their overall development strategy, and requests the support of the international community for debt relief for African countries in a comprehensive and effective manner;

5. Stresses the urgent need to facilitate the full integration of African countries into the world economy, and in this context calls for continued efforts to enhance market access for products of export interest to African economies and support for the efforts towards diversification and the building of supply capacity, and in this regard welcomes the efforts of the European Union and the United States, in particular through the Cotonou Agreement of the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the United States Africa Growth and Opportunity Act;

6. 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, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, taking into account the special development needs of the least developed countries in Africa;

7. Urges all States, international financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, multilateral organizations and development funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to pursue with renewed vigour, and as a matter of urgency, the realization of the goals and objectives embodied in the New Agenda;

8. Calls upon the United Nations system, as well as other multilateral and bilateral development cooperation institutions, including international financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations, to ensure that development assistance activities in Africa are carried out in a more coordinated manner for greater efficiency, impact and tangible results under the leadership of recipient countries;

9. Reaffirms its resolution 51/32, recognizing the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa as an implementing arm of the New Agenda, and notes with satisfaction the progress achieved so far, and invites the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen this mechanism with a view to enabling it to advance coordination and harmonization of initiatives among development actors in Africa, and in this regard stresses the importance of establishing an integrated United Nations approach to Africa;

10. Also reaffirms its decision contained in resolution 51/32 to conduct in 2002 the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda in line with the provisions of section II, paragraph 43 (e), of the annex to resolution 46/151;

11. Invites the Secretary-General to encourage the closer involvement of the Organization of African Unity in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and beyond, including the holding of the final review of the implementation of the New Agenda in 2002;
12. Stresses the importance, in preparation of the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda, of an independent and high-level quality evaluation;

13. Reiterates, in this regard, the importance of establishing a set of performance indicators to measure the progress made in the implementation of the New Agenda;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account these indicators, to submit an independent and objective evaluation of the New Agenda to the General Assembly not later than 31 May 2002;

15. Reaffirms its decision contained in resolution 54/234 to consider at its fifty-sixth session the modalities for undertaking the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda, taking into account the mid-term review of the New Agenda, agreed conclusions 1999/2 and decision 1999/270 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, and section VII of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa


Further progress was recorded in governance, information technology, education, health, gender and population. Programmes relating to poverty reduction through employment and informal sector development, market access and trade opportunities, water, food security, environment and South-South cooperation had shown steady progress.

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1999/2 [YUN 1999, p. 845] and a 1999 CPC request [ibid., p. 848], the Secretary-General presented a resource mobilization strategy, which would be discussed at the second annual regional consultation meeting of UN system organizations working in Africa (see below).

Improvements had been made regarding coordination at the country, subregional and regional levels.

Annexed to the report was the proposed resource mobilization strategy and information on action taken by the UN system in response to CPC recommendations made in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 865] and 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 848]. The Secretary-General observed that much remained to be done to implement those recommendations.

On 22 June [A/55/16], CPC, expressing support for the resource mobilization strategy annexed to the Secretary-General’s report, requested that an independent evaluation covering the five-year duration of the Special Initiative be carried out and submitted in 2001. The Committee reiterated the importance it attached to its 1998 recommendation that the various lead agencies be called upon, under the coordination of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Steering Committee, to develop a common strategic framework for action.

Regional consultation. The second regional consultation of UN agencies working in Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26-27 June) stated that resource mobilization for Special Initiative activities was best addressed at the country level on the basis of country-owned sector-wide programmes.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

As the Democratic Republic of the Congo grappled with the third year of the war, the humanitarian crisis was growing throughout the country. The number of vulnerable people was estimated at 16 million, or about 33 per cent of the population, while 4.3 per cent of households faced chronic food insecurity. Health service provision halved and continued to dwindle. Access problems were encountered in government- and rebel-controlled areas. However, breakthroughs were made in Kasai, Northern Katanga, Equateur, Ituri and South Kivu.

A UN consolidated inter-agency appeal, covering January to December 2000, which had sought $71.4 million, was revised in July to $37 million. The decrease reflected the exclusion of WFP requirements that were included in the 2000 appeal for the Great Lakes region (see p. 858). Of the revised amount, $11.8 million, or 31.8 per cent of the requirements, was received. An inter-agency appeal for January to December 2001 sought $139.5 million.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/96B [YUN1999, p. 849], the Secretary-General, in August [A/55/319], described financial and material assistance provided by the UN system to the DRC in its economic recovery and reconstruction process.

Humanitarian activities constituted a major part of the activities undertaken by UN agencies, but support to development activities also continued. Aside from UNICEF, which had drawn up a country programme, all the other development agencies were executing interim programmes. UNHCR continued to carry out its assistance programmes for refugees in the reception zones. Interventions by UN agencies that had gone beyond emergency humanitarian assistance covered health, including the fight against AIDS, education, governance, management of development,
agriculture, rural development and environment, humanitarian needs, infrastructure and employment/labour. However, their efforts were handicapped by certain decisions of DRC authorities, particularly the monetary measures to fix the exchange rate of the national currency.

Furthermore, ODA had been drastically reduced subsequent to the deteriorating relations between the DRC and its major development partners since the beginning of the 1990s. Since certain partners of the DRC later stated that they intended to resume their cooperation programmes, the various sectoral programmes formulated with the financial and technical support of the specialized agencies would serve as supporting documents for meetings to mobilize resources and/or for dialogues. Only Belgium and the EU had officially confirmed their decision to resume unconditionally their structural cooperation with the DRC.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/166 [draft: A/55/L.36 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 A of 16 December 1997, 53/1 L of 7 December 1998 and 54/96 B of 8 December 1999,


Recalling further the Ceasefire Agreement signed in Lusaka and the Kampala disengagement plan and to implement fully those agreements and create the conditions necessary for the speedy and peaceful resolution of the crisis, and also urges all parties to engage in a process of political dialogue and negotiation;

3. Encourages the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction, and stresses the need for the Government to assist and protect the civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons within the territory of that country regardless of their origin;

5. Urges all parties to respect fully the provisions of international humanitarian law and, in this regard, to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;

6. Renews its urgent appeal to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to continue to keep under consideration the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

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

8. Requests the Secretary-General:
(a) To continue to consult urgently with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, about ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict;
(b) To continue to consult with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, in order to convene, when appropriate, an international conference on peace, security and development in Central Africa and in the Great Lakes region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive manner;
(c) To keep under review the economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the country to enable it to meet its urgent needs in terms of economic recovery and reconstruction;
(d) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.

Other economic assistance

Central America

Nicaragua

In response to General Assembly resolution 53/1 D [YUN 1998, p. 869], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/55/125-E/2000/91] on efforts taken to assist Nicaragua to consolidate democracy, reintegrate ex-combatants and Nicaraguans in exile, establish a national disaster prevention, mitigation and response system and adopt a national policy on population. Strategies had been proposed to reduce environmental degradation. In April, a regional UNDP/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) project to establish a programme for the consolidation of the Mesoamerican biological corridor was initiated.

Haiti


The Secretary-General concluded that it remained difficult to lay out a precise timetable for the elaboration of a coherent long-term programme of support that would meet the approval and draw the active support of the international community, especially Haiti's key development partners. Nonetheless, the groundwork for the programme was being laid through the ongoing common country assessment, the planned formulation by the interim Government of a medium-term development strategy, and later a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper with the support of the World Bank and IMF, and the formulation by the UN system in Haiti of an UNDAF in 2001.

A key requirement in the formulation of the international community's programme of support, as requested in resolution 1999/11, would be the availability of credible statistics on the social sectors. That information would provide a clearer picture of the social development constraints facing Haiti, as well as the baseline data needed by the Government to formulate, over the next two years, a long-term poverty-reduction strategy along the lines set out by IMF and the World Bank.

Annexed to the report was a table of external aid disbursements by donor from 1995 to 1998.

By decision 2000/235 of 27 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report and asked him to report at its next substantive session on steps taken by the Haitian Government, the UN system and the international community towards the development and implementation of a long-term programme of support for Haiti.

Third States affected by sanctions

A May note by the Secretariat [E/2000/45] stated that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/59 [YUN 1999, p. 856] and General Assembly resolution 54/107 [ibid., p. 1252], the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions [ibid.] would be available to the Council in 2000 (see also p. 1269).

Economic and Social Council action


Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

The Economic and Social Council, Recalling its resolution 1999/59 of 30 July 1999, Recalling also General Assembly resolution 54/107 of 9 December 1999 on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions,

Aware of the decision of the Security Council to establish on a temporary basis an informal working group of the Council to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions, including, inter alia, the issues of unin...
tended impacts of sanctions and assistance to Member States in implementing sanctions, as contained in the note by the President of the Security Council of 17 April 2000,

Taking note of the note by the Secretariat,

Taking note also of section VII, on assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, of the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1999,

1. Takes note of the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, in particular sections IV and V thereof;

2. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General containing a summary of the deliberations and main findings of the ad hoc expert group meeting on developing a methodology for assessing the consequences incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures and on exploring innovative and practical measures of international assistance to the affected third States, and invites States and relevant international organizations within and outside the United Nations system which have not yet done so to provide their views regarding the report of the ad hoc expert group meeting;

3. Reaffirms the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts of the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States;

4. Decides to continue consideration of this question, under the item entitled "Economic and environmental questions", taking into account the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

States affected in the Balkans

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/96 G [YUN 1999, p. 857], the Secretary-General submitted a November report on economic assistance to States affected by the consequences of severing their economic relations with FRY [A/55/620 & Corr.1]. The report contained information provided by nine States and 19 organizations, programmes and funds of the UN system describing action they had taken to assist the affected States.

The Secretary-General concluded that because of the limited number of replies received from the affected States and the donor countries, it was not possible to make a conclusive assessment. However, recent assessments by international bodies active in the region indicated that the affected countries continued to face adjustment problems stemming from a range of factors, including the long-term consequences of major systemic transformations, violent conflicts and economic sanctions. It was essential that those problems be addressed in the context of the ongoing reconstruction and rehabilitation effort, as well as through enhancing regional cooperation for stabilization, economic recovery and development in the Balkans. At the regional level, attention was needed in the areas of infrastructure reconstruction, including the resumption of navigation on the Danube, private sector development, trade integration, investment promotion and institutional capacity-building. To date, the reconstruction and stabilization process and regional cooperation programmes had yielded positive results in the most seriously affected countries.

The UN system continued to implement substantial programmes of financial and technical assistance. In response to the renewed appeals for special economic assistance, programmes had been enhanced with a view to providing support to economic recovery, structural adjustment and development. Within the framework of the reconstruction and recovery programme for the Kosovo province of FRY, a series of emergency measures and activities had been carried out to address the regional consequences of the Kosovo crisis as a result of economic and social constraints caused by large numbers of refugees and displaced persons, as well as by disruptions in trade, transport and foreign investment in the neighbouring and other affected countries. As most urgent requirements resulting from the Kosovo crisis had been met, the focus had shifted to addressing a variety of longer-term economic and social problems of the affected States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/170 [draft: A/55/L.59 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

Economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/96 G of 15 December 1999,

Recalling also the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, adopted in Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999, and endorsed at the Sarajevo Summit of 30 July 1999, and emphasizing the crucial importance of its implementation,

Stressing the importance of the regional cooperation initiatives, assistance arrangements and organizations, such as the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royaumont Initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Danube Commission,
Humanitarian and special economic assistance

Noting the leading role played by the high-level steering group for South-Eastern Europe, under the joint chairmanship of the European Commission and the World Bank, in guiding the donor coordination process for the economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development of the region, in close cooperation with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe,

Mindful of the positive results of the regional funding conference for South-Eastern Europe organized by the European Commission and the World Bank, held in Brussels on 29 and 30 March 2000, and of the progress achieved in mobilizing and coordinating support of the donor community and international financial institutions for reconstruction and development efforts in South-Eastern Europe,

Welcoming the democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and their positive effects on peace, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans and the conclusions contained therein,

1. Expresses concern at the persistence of special economic problems confronting the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans, in particular their impact on regional trade and economic relations and on the navigation along the Danube and on the Adriatic Sea;

2. Welcomes the support already provided by the international community, in particular by the European Union and other major donors, to the affected States to assist them in coping with their special economic problems during the transition period following the developments in the Balkans, as well as in the longer-term process of economic recovery, structural adjustment and development in the region;

3. Stresses the importance of the effective implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the objective of which is to strengthen countries in South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region, and welcomes its follow-up activities, aimed, inter alia, at economic reconstruction, development and cooperation, including economic cooperation in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe;

4. Invites all States and the relevant international organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, in particular the international financial institutions, to continue to take into account the special needs and situations of the affected States in providing support and assistance to their efforts for economic recovery, structural adjustment and development;

5. Emphasizes the importance of a well-coordinated and timely donor response to the external funding requirements of the process for economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development in the Balkans, as well as financial support to other affected countries of Eastern Europe;

6. Encourages the affected States of the region to continue and enhance the process of multilateral regional cooperation in the fields of transport and infrastructure development, including the resumption of navigation on the Danube, as well as to foster conditions favourable to trade, investment and private sector development in all the countries of the region;

7. Invites the relevant international organizations to take appropriate steps, consistent with the principle of efficient and effective procurement and with the agreed measures for procurement reform, in order to broaden access for interested local and regional vendors and to facilitate their participation in the international assistance efforts for reconstruction, recovery and development of the region;

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

Disaster relief

In 2000, natural disasters were not confined to particular regions, nor did they discriminate between developed and developing countries. Forest fires raged for several weeks in the United States and floods caused devastation in several parts of Europe, notably in France, Italy, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Developing countries were, however, much more severely affected, especially in terms of loss of lives and the percentage of economic losses in relation to their gross national product. Widespread drought in the Horn of Africa threatened 12.3 million people in many parts of the region, including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. Mozambique required emergency humanitarian assistance following severe flooding caused by heavy rains. Madagascar was struck by tropical cyclones Eline and Hudah. Zimbabwe was also hit by cyclone Eline, which flooded the main river basins. Severe drought in the first half of 2000 afflicted much of Central and Southern Asia, particularly Afghanistan, India, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Caucasian countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Cambodia was devastated by two major floods, affecting 2.2 million people. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, longer-term economic problems and continuing poor harvests had been further exacerbated by an ongoing series of natural disasters, namely, floods, drought and tropical storm damage. A severe monsoon season in Viet Nam affected more than 5 million people and claimed 370 lives. In Central America, hurricane Keith battered Belize, causing extensive flood damage along with associated health risks and economic setbacks.

During the year, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported contributions for natural disasters totalling $460.7 million for 45 situations in 35 countries.
Through its Disaster Response Branch (DRB), OCHR mobilized and coordinated assistance to 61 natural and environmental disasters. DRB disbursed emergency cash grants of $640,000 and channelled some $6.1 million in cash and in-kind contributions into emergency relief programmes. The Branch dispatched 11 United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) missions to support the in-country disaster assessment and coordination mechanisms in the aftermath of disasters, and conducted UNDAC training in Europe, Latin America and Asia and the Pacific. DRB coordinated support programmes and advocated humanitarian needs resulting from the Chernobyl disaster (see p. 889), and concluded the divestiture of the OCHA warehouse in Pisa, Italy, which maintained a stock of donated disaster relief items, to WFP and the remaining stocks to the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy.

**International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), adopted by the programme forum of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000) (IDNDR) in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 859] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 54/219 [ibid., p. 861], built upon the experience of IDNDR, which was launched by the Assembly in resolution 44/236 [YUN 1989, p. 335]. The Strategy reflected a shift from the traditional emphasis on disaster response to disaster reduction. The inter-agency secretariat, which was established on 1 January, developed a framework for action to implement the Strategy, which sought to enable societies to become more resilient to the effects of natural hazards and related technological and environmental phenomena in order to reduce human, economic and social losses.

The UNISDR secretariat, which reported to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, was established to serve as the focal point within the UN system for the coordination of strategies and programmes for natural disaster reduction, and to ensure synergy between disaster reduction strategies and those in the socio-economic and humanitarian fields; to support the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction in the development of policies on natural disaster reduction; to promote a worldwide culture of reduction of the negative effects of natural hazards; to serve as an international clearing house for the dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge on disaster reduction strategies; and to backstop the policy and advocacy activities of national committees for natural disaster reduction.

The secretariat organized the first meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction (Geneva, 27-28 April). The Task Force was composed of eight UN agencies (FAO, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, WFP, WMO, World Bank), seven regional bodies and eight representatives of civil society and NGOs; the membership would be rotated on a biennial basis. The Task Force identified focal areas for its work, including ecosystems management, land-use management and unplanned urban areas; advocacy, information, education and training; public awareness and commitment; raising political will and the profile of prevention; the social and health impact of disasters; capacity-building in developing countries; mainstreaming disaster reduction in sustainable development and in national planning; lessons learned for prevention from actual disasters; private and public sector partnerships; technological disasters; and the application of science and technology in disaster reduction. It established four working groups: working group 1, led by WMO, dealt with climate and disasters, particularly the El Nino/La Nina phenomenon (see p. 883); working group 2, led by UNEP, focused on early warning; working group 3, led by UNDP, dealt with risk vulnerability and impact assessment; and working group 4, which was established at its second meeting in October and led by the Global Fire Monitoring Centre located in Freiburg, Germany, dealt with wildfires.

During 2000, the secretariat produced studies and reports, such as the Risk Assessment Tools for Diagnosis of Urban Areas against Seismic Disasters methodology for seismic risk reduction strategies, and a report on the Usoi Landslide Dam and Lake Sarez in Tajikistan.

The Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction was renamed the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions in support of the secretariat's activities. The Trust Fund had received contributions amounting to $2.2 million for the 2000-2001 biennium.

**ACC action.** In April [ACC/2000/4], ACC invited the Task Force to emphasize building and strengthening the capacities of disaster-prone countries through research and the training of experts.

In October [ACC/2000/20], the Committee observed that the Task Force might consider establishing a working group on science and technology. It was pointed out that the development
aspects of the Strategy should be considered by the General Assembly’s Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, whereas the relief, emergency and humanitarian aspects should be addressed by the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee. It was observed that the UNISDR secretariat should maintain a distinct and multidisciplinary character under the joint ownership of ACC and that consultations were needed on issues of common interest to the concerned agencies and on the development of Task Force work plans. ACC asked the Task Force to continue to emphasize natural disaster monitoring, prediction, early warning and preparedness and the role of science and technology.

El Niño

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/220 [YUN 1999, p. 863], the Secretary-General submitted a June report on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon [A/55/99-E/2000/86], a disruption of the ocean-atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific that had important consequences for weather and climate worldwide. The report reviewed the context of the El Niño phenomenon, ongoing activities and future arrangements regarding the Inter-Agency Task Force on El Niño, created under IDNDR.

A study on the prediction and amelioration of socio-economic impacts of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) began in March for a duration of 18 months. The study, a collaborative effort of the Inter-American Development Bank and WMO, evaluated the existing institutional and technical forecasting capability in Latin America and the Caribbean, formulated project proposals and analysed the economic value of improved early warning systems.

The Secretary-General discussed the role of the working group on El Niño/La Niña established under the UNISDR Task Force for Disaster Reduction (see p. 882). He recommended that the working group assume the role of the former IDNDR Inter-Agency Task Force on El Niño and build on its outputs. He also proposed that UNISDR activity on ENSO be linked to other strategic platforms, such as the Climate Agenda and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [YUN 1992, p. 681], the Convention on Biological Diversity [ibid., p. 683] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa [YUN 1994, p. 944]. The Secretary-General advocated the convening of relevant workshops and forums and support to proposed regional ENSO centres.

Annexed to the report were country and agency reviews on the impact of the 1997/98 El Niño event.

In a later report [A/56/76-E/2001/54], the Secretary-General described a global review of regional outlook forums held in Pretoria, South Africa, in October. The review recognized the significant role the regional climate outlook forums had played in capacity-building and the links they had helped to develop between meteorologists and end-users of seasonal forecasts. It made recommendations to enhance the service provided by the forums in terms of regional issues, capacity-building, the delivery of products and other technical subjects.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting45], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2000/33 [draft: E/2000/L.28] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon


Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Reiterating that the coordination function of the Council is to give guidance to its functional commissions on natural disaster reduction within the overall context of sustainable development strategies,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, and expresses its willingness to study them;

2. Welcomes the steps taken to ensure the continuity of international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

3. Notes with satisfaction the establishment of the working group on El Niño/La Niña within the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction;

4. Recognizes the contribution to the research on the El Niño phenomenon made by existing institutions, including the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, the Pan-American Health Organization and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

5. Invites the international community to provide technical, financial and scientific cooperation for the prompt establishment of the international centre for research on El Niño in Guayaquil, Ecuador, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/220, and also invites the host country to facilitate the process of establishing the centre;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/219 and 54/220, and Council resolutions 1999/46 and 1999/63.
**Disaster assistance**

### Africa

**Horn of Africa**

In the Horn of Africa, including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania, poor and unreliable rainfall during the preceding three years culminated in a serious drought in 2000, putting at risk the lives and livelihoods of nearly 16 million people. Small-scale movements of people took place during the first quarter of the year. Towards year's end, improvements in the drought situation occurred, particularly in Ethiopia and Somalia, and a large-scale famine was avoided.

OCHA launched a UN emergency appeal seeking $392.6 million to cover June to December 2000 for the first five countries. A further UN emergency consolidated appeal to cover January to December 2001 sought $352.9 million for emergency and recovery programmes.

### Kenya

In 2000, the drought in Kenya unfolded against a backdrop of long-term economic decline that had had an impact on every sector. The most affected were populations in pastoral and agro-pastoral districts, where the nutritional status of children under five deteriorated significantly. By November, over 3.2 million people in 22 districts were receiving food assistance.

Kenya was struck by tropical storm Gloria. Furthermore, tropical cyclone Hudah struck in March with rare intensity in several districts that had already been battered by Gloria. The natural disasters crossed national levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon.

1. Takes note with appreciation of the con clusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Also takes note with appreciation of the measures adopted in order to ensure the continuity of international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, within the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and reiterates its invitation to Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system, contained in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of its resolution 52/200;
3. Welcomes the establishment of the working group on the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon within the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction;
4. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures for the prompt establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for that purpose, in accordance with resolution 54/220;
5. Invites the Government of the host country to facilitate the process for the prompt establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/219 and 54/220 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;
7. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001, on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

### Madagascar

Within a three-week period in February, Madagascar was struck by tropical cyclone Eline, followed by tropical storm Gloria. Furthermore, tropical cyclone Hudah struck in March with rare intensity in several districts that had already been battered by Gloria. The natural disasters crossed the island with strong winds, torrential flood-producing rains and landslides. The three catastrophes combined caused 222 deaths, affected 1.1 million people, left 295,613 persons in need of urgent assistance and damaged agricultural, health, educational and public infrastructures.
Humanitarian and special economic assistance

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 March [meeting 92], the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/96 M [draft: A/54/L.80 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

Assistance to Madagascar following the tropical cyclones

The General Assembly,
Gravely concerned about the extensive damage and the devastation caused by tropical cyclones Eline and Gloria and the floods that have struck Madagascar,
Noting with concern the destruction of thousands of homes and the damage to major sectors of the national infrastructure as well as the growing needs of hundreds of thousands of victims,
Noting also with concern that those natural disasters have been aggravated by various epidemics that have resulted in the loss of human lives,
Recognizing the efforts of the Government and the people of Madagascar to provide relief and emergency assistance to the victims of those disasters,
Noting that the determined efforts of the Government of Madagascar to promote economic growth and development are hindered by this kind of recurring natural disaster,
Aware that, to mitigate and to prevent the consequences of those disasters, international assistance is required, both for emergency relief and for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the infrastructure,
1. Expresses its solidarity with the Government and the people of Madagascar;
2. Notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Government and the people of Madagascar to provide rapid relief to the victims through their own means;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the international community, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, for the measures it has taken to support the efforts of the Government of Madagascar to carry out relief operations and to provide emergency assistance;
4. Requests all States and international organizations to provide additional emergency support to Madagascar, with a view to alleviating the economic and financial burden that the people of Madagascar will have to bear during the emergency period and in the subsequent process of rehabilitation;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue mobilizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Madagascar;
6. Also requests the Secretary-General, acting in conjunction with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and in close cooperation with the government authorities, to assist the Government of Madagascar in effectively carrying out its rehabilitation efforts;
7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session, under the item on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session in 2000, on the implementation of the present resolution.

Report of Secretary-General. In July [A/55/124-E/2000/90], the Secretary-General reported that the most seriously affected regions in Madagascar were in isolated areas and inaccessible from Antananarivo, the capital. In the north-east, as only 28 per cent of the villages surveyed were accessible by road, large-scale deployment of aircraft was required, making the logistics of intervention difficult and costly. A UN system working group developed an intervention strategy comprising immediate emergency response to assist victims, a short-term response and a joint mechanism for responding to emergencies in general. The immediate response strategy was manifest in a flash appeal from UN agencies following cyclone Hudah, disseminated through OCHA, totalling $15.8 million. Short-term strategic responses consisted of a joint WFP/FAO mission, backed by the Ministry of Agriculture (25 April-12 May), to evaluate the crop year and balance sheet following the various climatic phenomena. The United Nations was also involved in the medium-term response, which included assistance to the Government in the formulation of a medium-term rehabilitation plan. The long-term support mechanism was based on institutional support provided by UNDP with a view to preparing national institutions to deal with emergency situations arising from natural disasters. UNDP made available to the Government's National Relief Council five national consultants and an international consultant responsible for guiding the process of drawing up a national strategy to prevent and manage natural disasters and risks, and the definition of a sustainable institutional management framework. The Government launched appeals in March and April, the first of which generated $3.5 million and the second, $15.6 million.

Mozambique

Beginning in December 1999, heavy rains fell over Mozambique, reaching unprecedented levels by the end of the month. In early February 2000, the Umbeluzi, Incomati and Limpopo rivers exceeded all known records and, on 25 February, when the river floods caused by cyclone Eline reached Mozambique, the central and southern provinces experienced the most extensive floods in more than 50 years. The floods affected 2 million people, or 12.1 per cent of the population, and impacted all sectors of the economy.

On 6 March, the Security Council President issued a press statement in which the Council called for all possible steps to avert a humanitarian crisis.

On 9 March, the Economic and Social Council authorized its President to transmit to the Government and people of Mozambique his statement on the devastation caused by the floods.
(decision 2000/212). The President stated that the Council called on Governments to continue and intensify relief efforts. It also called on the international community and the private sector to accelerate their efforts to provide relief and assistance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 March [meeting 91], the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/96 L [draft: A/54/L.79 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

Assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the unprecedented floods in Mozambique, which have resulted in tragic loss of human lives and extensive destruction of property and infrastructure,

Also deeply concerned about the impact of the disaster on the economic, social and humanitarian situation in Mozambique,

Gravely concerned about the widespread destruction of crops, which may lead to food security problems and loss of income,

Disturbed by the resulting lack of clean water, shelter and health care and by the outbreak of diseases, particularly malaria and cholera,

Recognizing the efforts of the Government and the people of Mozambique to save lives and to alleviate the suffering of the flood victims,

Recognizing also that natural disasters constitute a major problem for development,

Aware that, to mitigate and to prevent the consequences of this disaster, international assistance is required, both for emergency relief and for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the infrastructure,

Noting the appeal to the international community made by the Government of Mozambique for emergency humanitarian aid and the need for assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas affected by the disaster,

Noting also the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the international community for aid and assistance to Mozambique in dealing with the effects of the floods,

Noting further the statement issued by the President of the Security Council on 6 March 2000 concerning the floods in Mozambique,

1. Expresses its solidarity, at this difficult time, with the Government and the people of Mozambique in their efforts to cope with the serious consequences of the disaster;

2. Urges the international community, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other bodies of the United Nations system as well as non-governmental organizations to respond urgently and to provide assistance to Mozambique in its relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and programmes following the disaster;

3. Expresses its gratitude to the Member States, international and non-governmental organizations and private individuals and groups that are providing emergency relief to Mozambique;

4. Requests the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to increase their support and assistance for the strengthening of the capacity for disaster preparedness of Mozambique;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue mobilizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Mozambique;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue mobilizing and coordinating assistance required reconstruction and rehabilitation of the infrastructure in Mozambique and to meet other needs for the normalization of the life of citizens;

7. Encourages the holding of an international donors conference to assist Mozambique in its humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session, under the item on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session in 2000, on the collaborative efforts referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 above and on the progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of Mozambique.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 54/96 L (see above), the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/55/123-E/2000/89] on assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods of February and March that had killed 699 persons, displaced an estimated 544,000 and affected 5 million. OCHA/UNDAC teams played a role in preparing two emergency appeals. On 23 February, the Government and UN entities appealed for some $60 million for 300,000 flood victims. The impact of cyclone Eline was such that $130 million was contributed by donors to the relief phase. The Government and UN entities launched a transitional appeal on 22 March for $100 million of additional emergency assistance from March to August 2000 to benefit more than 600,000 victims. The International Conference on the Reconstruction of Mozambique (Rome, Italy, 3-4 May), organized by UNDP and the Government, obtained pledges of $453 million.

The Secretary-General said that a number of points emerged as salient to the coordination process, and contributed to mitigating the fallout on the affected populations, including a government-led response, supported by the United Nations; rapid mobilization of resources by the UN system; a disaster management team in Maputo, comprising the country management team and technical focal points from each agency, established by the UN system; the use of international military forces coordinated by civilians
and the United Nations in an unprecedented way; and the Secretary-General's appointment of his first-ever special humanitarian envoy for a natural disaster.

Zimbabwe

On 22 February, Zimbabwe was hit by tropical cyclone Eline, at a time when some parts of the country were experiencing life-threatening floods from the main river basins. Communications systems were destroyed and bridges were damaged and swept away, as were some dwellings. The disasters occurred during a period when Zimbabwe was experiencing a deep economic crisis.

Following a UN Disaster Management Team assessment, a UN inter-agency and NGO appeal for emergency relief was issued in March for $3.3 million to meet the needs of 96,000 people.

Asia

Cambodia

A UN inter-agency appeal for emergency relief and initial rehabilitation for Cambodia, totaling $10.7 million to cover 2 October 2000 to 31 March 2001, was launched in October following two major floods that struck in less than three months and affected more than 2.2 million people. The appeal aimed to facilitate the transition to longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction and to bridge the gap until resources for rehabilitation/reconstruction could be mobilized.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In response to the UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), launched in 1999, which sought $331.7 million for January to December 2000, the donor community had committed $153.1 million, or 48.8 percent of requirements.

In 2000, the harvest was one of the worst ever, resulting in severe shortages in the domestic food supply. The poor harvest was due to climatic conditions and the cumulative effect of underlying agriculture problems that had resulted in a food gap of some 1.9 metric tons. Although efforts were being made to revitalize the domestic food production sector, the beneficiary caseload continued to be large, with some 22 per cent of the DPRK's population of 22 million reliant on supplementary rations.

In November, OCHA presented a UN consolidated inter-agency appeal to the donor community of $384 million to cover requirements from January to December 2001.

Viet Nam

The unusually early monsoon season in Viet Nam caused unrelenting rains starting in July. Prolonged flooding affected more than 5 million people, claimed 370 lives and caused damage estimated at more than $251 million. Some 670,000 people either had been evacuated or were in need of urgent relocation. In October, the UN Disaster Management Team in Viet Nam launched a UN inter-agency appeal for emergency relief and initial rehabilitation for $9.4 million to cover the period from 20 October 2000 to 20 April 2001.

West Timor

On 18 May [S/2000/450], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that Indonesia had requested assistance from the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) to deal with an emergency in West Timor, caused by extensive flooding during which many had died and tens of thousands had been displaced. Among the dead were East Timorese refugees, most of them women and children. UNTAET had been requested to provide assistance in the form of two helicopters to evacuate flood victims and deliver relief supplies, initially for one week. The Secretary-General intended to accede to the request. On the same date [S/2000/451], the Council took note of the Secretary-General's proposal to accede to Indonesia's request.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Belize

Belize was battered by hurricane Keith from 1 to 3 October, causing extensive flood damage, along with associated health risks and economic setbacks. For weeks after the hurricane struck, the water levels continued to rise as persistent, heavy rains caused more flooding. Total damages were estimated at some $261.5 million. The UN Emergency Disaster Management Team coordinated the UN response from the capital of Belmopan.

The Government sought $17.1 million for the urgent reconstruction of houses that would benefit 4,500 persons. About half of the requirements had been met by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Belize Development Finance Corporation. OCHA sought the assistance of the international community for the remainder ($8.5 million).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/165 [draft: A/55/L.35/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].
**Emergency assistance to Belize**

The General Assembly,


Having been made aware of the extensive damage caused by powerful hurricane Keith during its landfall and passage through Belize from 1 to 3 October 2000,

Mindful of the human suffering caused by the displacement of thousands of people due to the loss of homes,

Aware of the devastating effect that the continuing emergency, due to flooding, is having on the infrastructure of the country, its agricultural and fisheries sectors and the delivery of health and social services,

Noting the enormous efforts required to alleviate the devastation caused by this natural disaster,

Cognizant of the efforts of the Government and people of Belize to relieve the suffering of the victims of hurricane Keith,

Conscious of the rapid response being made by the Government of Belize, the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, international and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to provide relief,

Underlining the importance of efforts aimed at strengthening early warning, prevention and preparedness mechanisms for natural disasters and measures to strengthen capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, with an emphasis on risk reduction,

Aware that the extent of the disaster and its medium-term and long-term effects will require, as a complement to the efforts being made by the Government and people of Belize, a demonstration of international solidarity and humanitarian concern to ensure broad multilateral cooperation in order to facilitate the transition from the immediate emergency situation in the affected areas to the process of reconstruction,

1. Expresses its solidarity and support to the Government and people of Belize;
2. Expresses its appreciation to all States of the international community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief assistance to Belize;
3. Urges Member States, as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of Belize;
4. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the international financial institutions, agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, to assist the Government of Belize in identifying medium-term and long-term needs and in mobilizing resources, as well as to help with the efforts towards rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas in Belize;
5. Encourages the Government of Belize, in conjunction with relevant partners, further to develop strategies aimed at preventing and mitigating natural disasters;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue mobilizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Belize.

**Hurricanes Jose and Lenny**

In an August report [A/55/333], the Secretary-General described the destruction caused by hurricanes Jose and Lenny, which struck several small island developing States and territories of the Eastern Caribbean in October and November 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 867]. The report gave details of the response of the international community and that of countries affected, as well as an assessment of efforts by the Governments of the region to deal with such occurrences.

Antigua and Barbuda was worst affected by hurricane Jose, with one fatality, confirmed injuries of 15 persons and more than 500 people forced to seek shelter. Extensive flooding in Saint Kitts and Nevis washed out several main roads. In Anguilla, damage was limited to beach erosion in the eastern and southern sections, as well as to damage to roads and electricity and telephone systems. No significant damage was reported in the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, except for small landslides in the latter. Regarding hurricane Lenny, severe damage occurred in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Martin and the United States Virgin Islands, particularly Saint Croix. On the island of Barbuda, 95 per cent of agriculture was destroyed and groundwater contamination occurred across the island. On Saint Kitts, over 200 families were left homeless, and extensive infrastructure damage affected ports, sea defences and coastal communities. The western coast of Dominica experienced economic damage as a result of the hurricane's effect on tourism and agriculture, and the housing stock underwent widespread damage and destruction. Much of the damage in several low-lying communities along the coast of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was economic, with the road and port infrastructure heavily affected. Heavy winds caused storm surges in the tourism region of Saint Lucia, Soufriere, where scores of people were left homeless.

In all cases, initial damage assessments were made difficult owing to the heavy toll on roads, ports and bridges. Prior to the impact, all national authorities had responded to the various warnings by putting into effect the preliminary stages of national preparedness plans. Most had, however, moved swiftly to begin main road repairs and to clear debris to allow relief and damage assessment teams access to affected communities.

The Secretary-General concluded that higher levels of resources were required for more comprehensive planning and response capability on a regional basis. With the support of the Government of Italy, UNDP had launched a Caribbean disaster reduction initiative to strengthen the ca-
pacities of national Governments and mandated regional organizations in the English-, French-, Spanish- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean in order to mainstream disaster reduction into development and post-disaster recovery. UNDP was also committed to coordinating the recovery planning interventions on a regional basis.

Chernobyl closure

On 15 December [A/55/744], following an order of the President of Ukraine, the Chernobyl nuclear power station closed. In 1986, a nuclear reactor at Chernobyl had caused a massive humanitarian disaster [YUN 1986, p. 584].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/171 [draft: A/55/L.60 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 20 (b)].

Closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

The General Assembly,


Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences in the affected countries,

Appreciative of the efforts made by the organizations of the United Nations system and Member States to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular, the contributions of the members of the Group of Seven and the European Union and others to the Shelter Implementation Plan aimed at securing the environmental safety of the sarcophagus covering the destroyed Chernobyl reactor in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Governments of the members of the Group of Seven and the Commission of the European Communities and the Government of Ukraine,

Noting with concern the gravity of economic and social problems arising for Ukraine as a result of the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

1. Welcomes the decision of Ukraine to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on 15 December 2000;
2. Calls upon the international community to continue to assist the Government of Ukraine in coping with the range of newly emerging economic and social problems arising as a result of the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant;
3. Invites all States and the relevant international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide support to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as the most affected countries, in mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.