Chapter VIII
Political and security questions

The United Nations continued in 2003 to consider political and security questions relating to the Organization’s efforts to support democratization worldwide, the promotion of decolonization, public information activities and the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in September, adopted the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action, which outlined benchmark principles for democratic Government, committed participating Member States to strengthening democracy at the national, regional and international levels, and made recommendations for strengthening the Conference’s Follow-up Mechanism.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples continued to review progress in implementing the 1960 Declaration, particularly the exercise of self-determination by the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The General Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990-2000) and the Second International Decade (2001-2010).

The Committee on Information continued its comprehensive review of the management and operation of the Department of Public Information (DPI), based on a number of reports submitted by the Secretary-General. In that regard, as part of a continuing process of departmental reform, a new operating model for DPI and a new organizational structure were instituted, comprising a Strategic Communications Division, a News and Media Division and an Outreach Division. The rationalization of the network of United Nations information centres around regional hubs was initiated with the creation of a Western European hub. The Department continued to develop and enhance the UN web site in all official languages. To improve the management of UN libraries, the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries was established in January, with the objective of developing policies and coordinating operations among all UN libraries.

In a December resolution on developments in information and telecommunications, the Assembly called on Member States to promote the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security. Regarding the role of science and technology in the context of international security, the Assembly, in another December resolution, encouraged UN bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes.

Action teams established in 2001 to implement the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) reported on progress in their work; five of the teams completed their mandates. In December, the Assembly decided to review in 2004 progress in the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.

In January, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation held its fifty-first session, which had been postponed from 2002 due to a budget shortfall.

General aspects of international security

Support for democracies

UN system activities

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolutions 56/96 [YUN 2001, p. 526] and 56/269 [YUN 2002, p. 553], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/58/392] outlining UN system support of Governments’ efforts to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, particularly its activities in democratization and governance, and describing the outcome of the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (see p. 593).

The Secretary-General stated that strengthening democracy worldwide was a recent priority of
the United Nations, and he had emphasized the need to focus increasingly on ways to promote better governance. Over the preceding decade, the Organization had increased its support for new and restored democracies in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, many of which were countries emerging from civil war and conflict. The promotion of democracy was also one of the Organization’s main goals for the twenty-first century. Its democracy assistance was multifaceted and included State and institutional reform, with specific emphasis on free and fair elections (see p. 58) and respect for international law and human rights principles, the development of a vibrant civil society based on free speech and organization, and a political culture that encouraged public debate and participation, especially at the local level. Many of its activities and programmes focused on providing legal, technical and financial assistance and advice, monitoring and observation services, and civic education and training. The Organization had also published a number of studies and held several conferences and workshops on democratization and good governance.

The Secretary-General observed that the Ulaanbaatar Conference (see below) provided new momentum to pursue the emerging democratization agenda of the United Nations, and the Conference’s Follow-up Mechanism would assume a key role in the Organization’s future work.

The Secretary-General stated that, despite the assistance the UN system had provided to new or restored democracies, much more needed to be done to make its work more integrated and effective and to improve the focus and coherence of its democratization activities. At the international level, a more coherent approach to democratization was needed, requiring a global dialogue on common challenges and practices of governance in the twenty-first century. International cooperation should also be strengthened, along with the tools to carry out work in that field. The Secretary-General was pleased that, irrespective of recent conflicting views on promoting democracy, the concept of advocating and consolidating democracy had remained strong and viable. He was more convinced than ever that the United Nations had to remain on course on promoting democracy globally, regionally and nationally, and a full debate on the UN role in that undertaking in the twenty-first century would be desirable.

Communication. Ukraine transmitted a 29 January statement [A/58/62/S/2003/136] on the signing of the Treaty on the Ukraine-Russian State Border, to be a road map for further cooperation between the two States, and requested that it be considered under the item on the promotion and consolidation of new and restored democracies.

Fifth International Conference

The Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 10-12 September), organized and hosted by Mongolia in collaboration with the United Nations, had as its theme “Democracy, good governance and civil society”. A record number of States (119) participated in the Conference, which was preceded by a Parliamentary Forum, organized jointly by the Parliament of Mongolia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and an interactive civil society forum.

The Conference discussed globalization and its impact on democracy, international terrorism and crime; poverty, unemployment and social exclusions as threats to democracy and increased support from donors and international financial institutions to developing countries to support democracy and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 51]; the importance of a vibrant, active civil society and the necessity of government support to its varied elements, and the interdependence of democracy, human rights and peace; the decline of trust in authorities, particularly in older democracies; electoral systems and “the winner takes all” policy as a source for tension and risks for long-term political stability; the media as an important watchdog for democratic practices; and unilateralism as a threat to democracy. The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action [A/58/387]. Qatar offered to host the sixth international conference in Doha in 2006.

In the Declaration, participants undertook to dedicate their efforts to helping new and restored democracies to consolidate and deepen democracy. They endorsed a series of principles regarding democratic societies, namely, that such societies were just and responsible; were inclusive and participatory; promoted and protected the rights and freedoms of all their members; were open and transparent; functioned under agreed rules of law and accountability, regardless of possible challenges; and showed solidarity towards others. Participants also agreed to work towards implementing those principles, in accordance with international, regional and national plans of action.

The Ulaanbaatar Plan of Action would guide the work of the Conference President and Bureau in the years leading to the sixth conference, and committed participating States to strengthening democracy at the national, regional and international levels.
At the national level, the Plan called on countries to draw up, in collaboration with citizens and civil society, a national plan for strengthening democracy that was consistent with the Ulaanbaatar Declaration; prepare, prior to the sixth conference, “country information notes” outlining the prospects of advancing and deepening democracy; and develop national democratic indicator databases to monitor progress. Countries were also to give special attention to the issues of participation and representation, sustainable development and eradicating poverty, the protection of human rights, open and transparent government, and the rule of law and accountability.

To strengthen regional collaboration in democratic development, countries were to draw up a plan of action for regions through regional international organizations, in collaboration with Governments and civil society, and adopt regional declarations or charters focusing on collaboration for the promotion and support of democracy, among other actions.

At the international level, the Plan recommended that the General Assembly strengthen the Follow-up Mechanism by ensuring that it was responsible for implementing the Plan of Action; the Conference President or Bureau represented the Conference at international forums; and the Follow-up Mechanism coordinated with the international civil society forum follow-up mechanism. The Conference President should establish, with UN assistance, a working group to examine the Conference’s conclusions and the proposals submitted to and interventions made at the Conference, with the aim of improving the Conference’s effectiveness and efficiency and establishing a programme of work for future conferences. The President or the Bureau were to initiate discussions with the Chair of the Community of Democracies to exchange views on ways of bringing the two movements closer together.

Follow-up Mechanism

The Secretary-General, in his report on UN support to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies [A/58/392], said that the follow-up action had not been as effective as anticipated and needed substantive and logistic strengthening. He noted that, 15 years since the first conference, there was serious talk of institutionalizing the follow-up and monitoring progress achieved between conferences. The follow-up could take place through country information notes and/or democracy indicators, as mentioned in the Plan of Action. The Fifth Conference had set up an ambitious follow-up plan to implement its recommendations, and the Follow-up Mechanism, originally established at the Third Conference in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 550] and which was to convene in New York, would assume a key role in the conferences’ future work.

The current arrangement through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which gave substantive and logistical support for each conference through its resident coordinator, the relevant host country team and the regional bureau at headquarters, and the UN Department of Political Affairs, provided continuity and support for the Follow-up Mechanism and the General Assembly’s deliberations, and could be maintained on an interim basis. However, if the conference were to be institutionalized, a new support structure would be needed.

The Secretary-General, noting the measures recommended by the Fifth Conference for strengthening the Follow-up Mechanism (see above), suggested that the Assembly, at its fifty-eighth (2003) session, support those measures.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 62], the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/15 [draft: A/58/L.15 & Add.1, orally revised] without vote [agenda item 20].

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the foundations of any democratic society,


Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000, in particular paragraphs 6 and 24 thereof,

Recalling further the declarations and plans of action of the five international conferences of new or restored democracies adopted in Manila in 1988, Managua in 1994, Bucharest in 1997, Cotonou in 2000 and Ulaanbaatar in 2003,

Recalling that the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, which was held in Ulaanbaatar from 10 to 12 September 2003, focused on democracy, good governance and civil society,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace,
democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity, expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for the successful organization of the Fifth International Conference,

bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

taking note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance convened in 2002 and 2003, as well as those held under the auspices of the Fifth International Conference,

taking note of the views expressed by Member States in the debate on this question at its fifty-sixth to fifty-eighth sessions,

bearing in mind that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization, good governance practices and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

expressing its deep appreciation for the support provided by Member States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to the Government of Mongolia for the holding of the Fifth International Conference,

taking note of the conclusions of the parliamentarians’ forum held in Ulaanbaatar on 11 September 2003 and the contribution of the ensuing parliamentary declaration to the proceedings of the Fifth International Conference,

welcoming the holding of an international civil society forum within the framework of the Fifth International Conference,

having considered the report of the Secretary-General and its focus on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society, adopted on 12 September 2003 at the Fifth International Conference,

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

2. Welcomes the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society, adopted at the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies;

3. Encourages Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national parliaments, including in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other parliamentary organizations, and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the follow-up to the Fifth International Conference and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, including those set out in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action;

4. Recognizes that the United Nations has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization and good governance within the context of their development efforts;

5. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States by providing coherent and adequate support for their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization;

6. stresses that the activities of the Organization must be undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. Comments the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support efforts to consolidate democracy and good governance, and requests him to continue those activities;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to examine options for strengthening the support provided by the United Nations system for the efforts of Member States to consolidate democracy and good governance, including the provision of support to the President of the Fifth International Conference in his efforts to make the Conference and its follow-up more effective and efficient;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled “Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies”.

Regional aspects of international peace and security

South Atlantic

As requested in General Assembly resolution 56/7 [YUN 2001, p. 527], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic [A/58/265], declared in 1986 to promote cooperation among States of the region in the political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural and other fields [YUN 1986, p. 369]. The Secretary-General stated that, as at 8 August, three Governments (Argentina, Mexico, Sudan) had responded to his request for views on the implementation of the declaration’s objectives. Five UN bodies had also responded.

General Assembly action

On 5 November [meeting 56], the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/10 [draft: A/58/L.12 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 27].
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, in which it solemnly declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region between Africa and South America, a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the matter, including resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, in which it reaffirmed the determination of the States of the zone to enhance and accelerate their cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other spheres,

Reaffirming the importance of the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic as a basis for the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region,

Reaffirming also that the questions of peace and security and those of development are interrelated and inseparable and that cooperation for peace and development among States of the region will promote the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Recalling the agreement reached at the third meeting of the States members of the zone, held in Brasilia on 21 and 22 September 1994, to encourage democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1995, to promote and defend all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of these goals,

Aware of the importance that the States of the zone attach to the protection of the environment of the region, and recognizing the threat that pollution from any source poses to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological balance and its resources,

Welcoming the adoption of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, submitted in accordance with resolution 56/7 of 21 November 2001,

1. Calls upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives and with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, in particular actions that may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region;

2. Notes with satisfaction the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), and also notes with satisfaction the progress towards the full entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);

3. Encourages all States, in particular the members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, to cooperate in promoting and strengthening global, regional, subregional and national initiatives to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

4. Commends regional efforts being undertaken by States members of the zone in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and calls upon them to keep up their efforts in this regard;

5. Affirms the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions, and its determination to preserve the region for all peaceful purposes and activities protected by international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

6. Views with concern the increase in drug trafficking and related crimes, including drug abuse, and calls upon the international community and the States members of the zone to promote regional and international cooperation to combat all aspects of the problem of drugs and related offences;

7. Recognizes, in the light of the number, magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to continue to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance by States members of the zone, so as to ensure a timely and effective response;

8. Welcomes the offer by Benin to host the sixth meeting of the States members of the zone;

9. Requests the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

Indian Ocean

In 2003, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (New York, 8 July) [A/58/29] continued to consider approaches for achieving the goals of the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2832(XXVI) [YUN 571, p. 34].

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 56/16 [YUN 2001, p. 529], the Chairman of the Committee, following informal consultations with Committee members, concluded that the objectives of the 1971 Declaration remained valid. However, in view of the complexities and difficulties involved in the implementation of the Declaration, further time would be needed before any discussion could begin on practical measures to ensure peace and stability in the Indian Ocean, and the Assembly should give more time and allow the
Chairman to continue his consultations. Three permanent members of the Security Council (France, United Kingdom, United States) continued their non-participation in the Committee’s work. The Committee remained convinced that the participation of all permanent Council members and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in its work would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue aimed at developing conditions of peace, security and stability in the region.


**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/58/453], adopted resolution 58/29 by recorded vote (130-3-42) [agenda item 64].

**Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 54/47 of 1 December 1999 and 56/16 of 29 November 2001 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979,

Recalling further paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Kuala Lumpur, from 20 to 25 February 2003, in which it was noted, inter alia, that the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee,

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches that are conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

*Noting* the initiatives taken by countries of the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

Convinced that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Considering that greater efforts and more time are required to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

*Having considered* the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;

2. *Reiterates* its conviction that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. *Requests* the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace”.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/29:**

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

*Against:* France, United Kingdom, United States.

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

**Decolonization**

The General Assembly’s Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee on decolonization) held its annual session in New York in two parts—12 February and 11 April (first part); and 2, 4, 9, 12, 16, 18 and 23 June (second part). It considered vari-
ous aspects of the implementation of the 1960 Declaration, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 1541(XV) [YUN 1960, p. 49], including general decolonization issues and the situation of individual Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs). In accordance with Assembly resolution 57/140 [YUN 2002, p. 557], the Special Committee transmitted to the Assembly the report on its 2003 activities [A/58/23].

Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Caribbean regional seminar

As part of its efforts to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010) [YUN 2001, p. 500], declared by the General Assembly in resolution 55/146 [YUN 2000, p. 548], the Special Committee on decolonization [A/58/25] organized a Caribbean regional seminar (The Valley, Anguilla, 20-22 May) to assess the situation in NSGTs. It was the first such seminar to be held in an NSGT.

Participants reaffirmed the Special Committee’s role as the primary vehicle for fostering the decolonization process and expediting the goals of the Second Decade. The Seminar recommended that the Special Committee continue to participate actively in monitoring the evolution of NSGTs towards self-determination and play a catalytic role in the search for a specific solution for each of the remaining NSGTs, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the UN Charter, Assembly resolutions 1541(XV) and 1541(XV) [YUN 1960, p. 509] on the transmission of information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter, and other relevant UN resolutions and decisions. It noted the proposal by the Special Committee Chairman to expedite a work programme with specified time frames, based on a case-by-case approach, in order to complete the decolonization process by the end of the Second Decade, and recommended that the Special Committee implement the programme, in consultation and coordination with the peoples of the NSGTs in which there were no pending sovereignty disputes and with the administering Powers concerned.

Noting the call by all elected representatives of the United Kingdom’s NSGTs for greater devolution of powers from the governors to locally elected representatives, seminar participants recommended that the United Kingdom and representatives of the Territories further discuss the issue. It recommended that the Special Committee consult, in the immediate future, with the United Kingdom on the application of its policy of constitutional modernization in NSGTs under its administration in the context of resolution 1541(XV), and discuss with it, in consultation with the representatives of the NSGTs concerned, which Territories in the region would achieve full self-government in the near future and, accordingly, be subject to “de-listing”.

The seminar reaffirmed the right of the peoples of NSGTs to be informed about the full range of available self-determination options and their implications, and urged the United Kingdom to include the examination of those options in its discussions with the Territories. It recommended that the Special Committee conduct studies on the implications of those options for Bermuda and Caribbean NSGTs and welcomed the possibility of assistance in that regard from UNDP. The seminar also recommended that UNDP provide capacity-building and institutional development assistance for all Caribbean NSGTs that were reviewing their self-determination options.

Participants welcomed the presence at the seminar of a senior-level representative of the United Kingdom and looked forward to further engagement and cooperation between the Special Committee and that country. They regretted the absence of the other administering Power in the region.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/111 [draft: A/58/ L.21] by recorded vote (154-2-8) [agenda item 19].

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 1541(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, most recently resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind the declaration of the period 2001-2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1541(XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the Organization and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2001,
Reconfirming the need to take measures to eliminate colonialism before 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as of racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

Stressing the importance of the participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with concern that the non-participation of certain administering Powers has adversely affected the implementation of the mandate and work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of the Special Committee and New Zealand, as administering Power for Tokelau, with the participation of representatives of the people of Tokelau, with a view to advancing the programme of work on the question of Tokelau;

4. **Affirms once again its support** for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. **Approves** the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2003, including the programme of work envisaged for 2004;

6. **Calls upon** the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to finalize before the end of 2004 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

7. **Welcomes** the ongoing consultations between the Special Committee and New Zealand, as administering Power for Tokelau, with the participation of representatives of the people of Tokelau, with a view to advancing the programme of work on the question of Tokelau;

8. **Requests** the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) **To formulate specific proposals** to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

(b) **To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 151(XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization**;

(c) **To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation** in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) **To finalize before the end of 2004 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories**;

(e) **To continue to dispatch visiting missions** to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) **To conduct seminars**, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) **To take all necessary steps** to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and
international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(b) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. Calls upon all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. Calls upon the administering Powers to ensure that the economic activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. Urges the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, including land, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. Urges all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests that the administering Powers take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. Reaffirms that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

14. Calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2004;

15. Requests the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as of the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

Implementation by international organizations

In a March report [A/58/66], the Secretary-General stated that he had brought General Assembly resolution 57/135 [YUN 2002, p. 561] to the attention of the specialized agencies and other international institutions associated with the United Nations and invited them to submit information regarding their implementation of activities in support of NSGTs. Replies received from six agencies or institutions were summarized in an April report of the Economic and Social Council President on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization [E/2005/47]. According to the information provided, a number of specialized agencies and organizations continued to extend programmes of assistance to NSGTs from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by UNDP.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2003/31 [draft: E/2003/ L.31] by recorded vote (32-0-20) [agenda item 9].

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council, having examined the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted...
by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

_Having heard_ the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

_Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1541(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/30 of 25 July 2002,

_Bearing in mind_ the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community, and the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

_Expressing its appreciation_ to the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Islands Forum, the African Union, the South Pacific Islands Forum, now the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Caribbean Community,

_Welcoming_ the participation, in the capacity of observer, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the United Nations world conferences in the economic and social fields, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, as well as in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

_Notice_ that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

_Expressing its conviction_ that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in their efforts to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

_Mindful of_ the imperatives need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

_Bearing in mind_ the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

_Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002, entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”,

1. _Takes note_ of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. _Also takes note_ of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. _Recommends_ that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration, contained in resolution 1541(XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. _Reaffirm_ that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. _Also reaffirms_ that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. _Expresses its appreciation_ to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of resolution 1541(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to
implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;
7. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;
8. Requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;
9. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;
10. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of resolution 1544(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
11. Welcomes the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
12. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and, or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;
13. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the meetings and conferences on specific Territories held by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;
14. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
15. Draws the attention of the Special Committee to the information contained in the resolution of the Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/30 of 25 July 2002, Recalling its resolutions 1544(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council;
16. Welcomes the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of resolution 574(XXVIII) of 16 May 1998 calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies;
17. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;
18. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2004;
19. Decides to keep these questions under continuous review.

Recorded Vote on Resolution 2003/51:

In favour: Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
Abstaining: Andorra, Australia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.
Contra: None.
of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 154(XIV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Also welcoming the current participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of those commissions and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 154(XIV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bear in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/135 of 11 December 2002 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 154(XIV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

4. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 154(XIV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

7. Urges those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

8. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;
(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 134(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

12. Welcomes the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Encourages the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of the previous report;

17. Commends the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

18. Requests the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the associated specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/104:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Military activities and arrangements in colonial countries


Economic and other activities affecting the interests of NSGTs

The Special Committee on decolonization continued consideration of economic and other activities affecting the interests of the peoples of NSGTs. It had before it Secretariat working papers containing information on, among other things, economic conditions, with particular ref-

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/477], adopted resolution 58/103 by recorded vote (164-2-3) [agenda item 88].

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled “Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories”;

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item;

Recalling its resolution 154(XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant Assembly resolutions including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and 55/146 of 8 December 2000;

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses;

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 154(XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter;

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Beareing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. Reaffirms the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 154(XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. Affirms the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. Reaffirms its concern about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. Affirms the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. Calls once again upon all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621(XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. Reiterates that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, are a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. Invites all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. Urges the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee...
the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. Calls upon the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514(XV);

12. Appeals to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Decides to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

Dissemination of information

The Special Committee on decolonization held consultations in June with representatives of the UN Departments of Political Affairs and of Public Information (DPI) on the dissemination of information on decolonization. It also considered a report of the Secretary-General on DPI activities on the topic from June 2002 to May 2003 [A/AC.109/2005/18].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Committee on decolonization [A/58/23], adopted resolution 58/110 by recorded vote (162-3) [agenda item 9].

Dissemination of information on decolonization
The General Assembly,
Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,
Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular resolution 57/139 of 11 December 2002,
Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving the goals of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Recalling the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. Approves the activities in the field of dissemination of information undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

2. Considers it important to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. Requests the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to take into ac-
count the suggestions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;
(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;
(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;
(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Requests all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. Requests the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/110:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Speaking after the vote, the United Kingdom stated that it continued to view the obligation the text placed on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues as an unwarranted drain on scarce UN resources.

Information on Territories

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/131 [YUN 2002, p. 567], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [A/58/69] indicating the dates of transmission of information on economic, social and educational conditions in NSGTs for the years 2001-2004, under Article 73(e) of the Charter of the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/478], adopted resolution 58/102 by recorded vote (163-0-6) [agenda item 87].

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73(e) of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 1970(XVIII) of 16 December 1965, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73(e) of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 134(XV) of 14 December 1960,
Recalling also its resolution 57/131 of 11 December 2002, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970(XVIII),
Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73(e) of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,
Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,
1. Revealed that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73(e) of the Charter to the Secretary-General with respect to that Territory;
2. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73(e) of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;
4. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration
on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970(XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/102:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Angola, France, Israel, Micronesia, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: None.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
3. Invites all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;
4. Urges the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
6. Draws the attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

Study and training

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/134 [YUN 2002, p. 368], the Secretary-General reported on offers of study and training scholarships for inhabitants of NSGTs during the period 11 June 2002 to 1 April 2003 by the following Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Visiting missions

In June, the Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of sending visiting missions to NSGTs [A/58/25]. It adopted a resolution in which it stressed the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to facilitate the full implementation of the 1960 Declaration on decolonization, called on administering Powers to receive those missions in the Territories under their administration, and asked its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam to facilitate a mission to that Territory.

The Committee recommended to the General Assembly for adoption draft resolutions on 11 small NSGTs (see p. 616) and on Tokelau (see p. 613). In its draft resolutions, the Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to the Territories.

Puerto Rico

In accordance with the Special Committee’s 2002 resolution concerning the self-determination and independence of Puerto Rico [YUN 2002, p. 568], the Committee’s Rapporteur, in a May report [A/AC.109/2003/L.3], provided information on
Puerto Rico, including recent political, military and economic developments and UN action.

Following its usual practice, the Committee acceded to requests for hearings from representatives of a number of organizations, who presented their views on 9 June [A/58/23]. The Committee adopted a resolution without vote, by which it reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence; called on the United States to assume its responsibility of expediting a process to allow the Puerto Rican people to exercise that right; urged the United States to return the island of Vieques to the people of Puerto Rico; and requested the Rapporteur to report in 2004 on the resolution’s implementation.

**Territories under review**

**Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**

The Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) on 16 June [A/58/23], when it examined a Secretariat working paper on constitutional and political developments, mine clearance, and economic and social conditions in that Territory [A/AC.109/2003/17]. The Special Committee adopted a resolution [A/AC.109/2003/24] requesting Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute.

Argentina, in a 3 January letter [A/57/704], was transmitted to the Secretary-General a press release recalling its objective to recover full sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas through peaceful means; reaffirmed its conviction that the resumption of negotiations on the sovereignty issue would contribute to the establishment of a framework conducive to achieving a fair and lasting solution to the dispute; and stated that it was acting in the belief that interim understandings reached with the United Kingdom under the formula for safeguarding sovereignty rights in the South Atlantic were also contributing to the search for a solution. The United Kingdom responded on the same date [A/57/708], stating that it had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and rejecting as unfounded Argentina’s claim to sovereignty.

Addressing the General Assembly during the general debate on 25 September [A/58/PV.11], Argentina’s President, Néstor Carlos Kirchner, stated that his country was fully willing to negotiate in order to settle conclusively the sovereignty dispute, and urged the United Kingdom to resume bilateral negotiations. In exercise of its right of reply, the United Kingdom, in a 25 September statement [A/58/408], welcomed Argentina’s resolve, which it shared, to engage in positive bilateral exchanges of practical cooperation in the South Atlantic. However, while such exchanges contributed further to the mutual understanding embodied in the 1999 Anglo-Argentine joint statement [YUN 1999, p. 358], defining in that statement compromised the United Kingdom’s position on sovereignty. On 16 June, elected representatives of the Islands again asked the Special Committee to recognize that they, like any other people, were entitled to exercise the right of self-determination and reiterated that the people of the Falkland Islands did not wish to change the status of the islands. The United Kingdom remained committed to the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to determine their own future, and there would be no change in the island’s sovereignty unless the islanders wished it. It was confident that its relationship with Argentina would develop and believed that cooperation between the two countries on matters of mutual interest would enable them to manage their differences, while assisting in the development of confidence and trust in the South Atlantic.

Argentina, in an 11 November letter to the Assembly President [A/58/602], pointed out that the persons from the Malvinas Islands who participated in the 16 June meeting of the Special Committee on decolonization did so as petitioners, without the representative status claimed by the United Kingdom in its statement and rejected by Argentina. With respect to the United Kingdom’s reference to self-determination, Argentina reaffirmed the need to apply the principle of territorial integrity to the special and particular colonial situation under the item on the question of the Malvinas Islands; it cited Assembly resolution 2065(XX) [YUN 1965, p. 358], which called on both countries to resume bilateral negotiations with a view to finding a just, peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, bearing in mind the interests of the islands’ population. Argentina clarified that, in addition to the 1999 joint statement, other provisional understandings with the United Kingdom relating to sovereignty safeguarded Argentina’s position in the dispute over the Territories, and that those understandings, in addition to resolving some practical problems in the South Atlantic, were conducive to the renewal of bilateral negotiations on sovereignty.
In a 20 October letter to the Secretary-General [A/58/327], Argentina reiterated its rejection of the 1999 “White Paper on Partnership for Peace and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories” [YUN 2001, p. 512] and the designation of the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands as British Overseas Territories, as well as any unilateral changes in the situation while the sovereignty dispute was unresolved. The letter recalled several Assembly resolutions recognizing the existence of a sovereignty dispute regarding the Territories and recommending that it be resolved through bilateral negotiations. Argentina reaffirmed its sovereignty over the islands and surrounding maritime spaces, which were an integral part of its national territory.

By decision 58/511 of 5 November, the Assembly deferred consideration of the item on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and included it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session.

Gibraltar

The Special Committee on decolonization took up consideration of the question of Gibraltar on 4 June [A/58/23]. Before it was a Secretariat working paper describing political developments and economic and social conditions in the Territory, and setting forth the positions of the United Kingdom (the administering Power), Gibraltar and Spain concerning Gibraltar’s future status [A/AC.109/2003/3].

On 12 July 2002, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw had announced before the House of Commons that, within the context of the Anglo-Spanish negotiations on Gibraltar, the United Kingdom and Spain were in broad agreement on principles that should underpin a lasting settlement, including that Britain and Spain should share sovereignty over the Territory, which should retain its British traditions and its institutions, including its Government, House of Assembly, courts and police service, as well as the right to British nationality. It would gain the right to Spanish nationality. Gibraltar could choose to participate fully in the European Union (EU) single market and other EU arrangements. If a comprehensive settlement was reached by all parties based on those principles, the whole package would be put to the people of Gibraltar to decide in a referendum.

Gibraltar’s Chief Minister Peter Caruana, speaking before the Fourth Committee on 3 October 2002, condemned the Foreign Secretary’s informal statement regarding shared sovereignty with Spain. He explained that he had declined an invitation to participate in the Anglo-Spanish negotiations because he would not have had an equal say or been given assurances of not being excluded from agreements reached between Spain and the United Kingdom, and his presence would have been used to flesh out details of a predetermined agreement on joint sovereignty. He urged the Committee to refer the case to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion, amend its annual draft decision on Gibraltar, which continued to favour Spain and the United Kingdom, in order to give the people of Gibraltar an equal and separate voice in the dialogue, and affirm the primacy of the wishes of the people of Gibraltar and the principle of self-determination.

On 4 October 2002, the United Kingdom representative said that the agreement on co-sovereignty was a historic one and questioned the purpose of the referendum being organized by Gibraltar since no proposal for such a vote had been put forward. He made it clear that it was the British Government’s responsibility, in consultation with Gibraltar, to oversee the organization and timing of any referendum once a comprehensive settlement with Spain had been reached.

In a 7 November 2002 referendum held by the Government of Gibraltar on the issue of Anglo-Spanish joint sovereignty, 98.97 per cent of voters rejected the concept. On 8 November 2002, the British Minister for Europe stated that the United Kingdom had always made clear that there would be no change in Gibraltar’s sovereignty without the consent of the people in a referendum, and there were no such proposals on the table. Spain’s Vice-President, its Minister for Foreign Affairs and its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, among other officials, stated that the 7 November referendum had no legal validity and stressed the importance of continuing the Anglo-Spanish negotiations.

In his 2003 New Year message, Gibraltar’s Chief Minister said that Gibraltar remained willing to negotiate in a structured, reasonable, open-agenda dialogue with no predetermined outcome, but dialogue should not be confused with sovereignty transfer negotiations. He proposed that formal negotiations with the United Kingdom should begin in 2003 on the constitutional reform proposals made in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 570].

A later Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2004/7] reported that, on 15 July 2003, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British House of Commons recommended that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office withdraw its joint sovereignty proposal and proceed with establishing normal and cooperative relations between Gibraltar and Spain. In September, the Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs responded that the British Government fully agreed that normal and cooperative relations between Spain and Gibraltar were highly desirable, and it would continue to press the Spanish Government to that end, but its position regarding the issue of joint sovereignty remained the same (see p. 610).

The Chief Minister of Gibraltar said that the Gibraltar Parliament had unanimously adopted a resolution asking the Special Committee to visit Gibraltar, and he urged the Fourth Committee to submit the proposal formally to the British Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and suggested that the two sides meet informally to discuss the proposals and the way forward. The Secretary of State acknowledged the importance of the proposals and said they would receive careful consideration; he would meet the Chief Minister soon for an initial discussion and was looking forward to discussing them in due course, with a view to the further development of a modern and appropriate relationship with Gibraltar.

After hearing statements by the Deputy Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Leader of the Opposition in Gibraltar and the representative of Spain, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question in 2004.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

In December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/480], adopted decision 58/526 without vote [agenda item 19].

**Question of Gibraltar**

At its 72nd plenary meeting, on 9 December 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), adopted the following text:

*"The General Assembly, recalling its decision 57/226 of 11 December 2002, and recalling at the same time that the statement agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Brussels on 27 November 1984 stipulates, inter alia, the following:

The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, tourist, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 Constitution*."

New Caledonia

In accordance with the 1998 Nouméa Accord on New Caledonia’s future status [YUN 1998, p. 591], the transfer of power from France (the administering Power) continued in 2003. The Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of the Territory on 12 June [A/58/25]. Before it was a Secretariat working paper describing the political situation and economic data and developments in the Territory [A/AC.109/2003/7].

A later Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2004/11] reported that, according to France, the institutions created under the Nouméa Accord continued to function properly throughout 2003, and the Territory’s pro-independence (Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS))
and pro-integration (formerly Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République and still usually referred to as RPCR) political parties continued to be committed to the Accord’s implementation. During the year, the Institut de formation des personnels administratifs and the Office des postes et télécommunications were transferred and steps were taken to finalize the transfer of services for labour inspection, foreign trade, primary education, mining and energy.

In spite of considerable institutional and administrative advances, progress continued to be hindered by friction between the pro-integration and pro-independence parties, owing to differing interpretations of the concept of collegiality in Government, and other sensitive issues, including voter eligibility and mining initiatives. According to France, the New Caledonian political scenario was more calm and less bipolar in 2003. However, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, a provider of country, industry and management analysis, discontent among the indigenous Kanak population over the pace of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord was expected to fuel political tensions, and there was growing concern among FLNKS members about its lack of representation in the Government. The July visit of French President Jacques Chirac further increased tensions between the pro- and anti-independence parties. President Chirac stressed France’s role as a partner in the transfer of further jurisdictions to New Caledonia and pledged that France would fully implement and respect the Nouméa Accord and help to develop further education, environment, regional cooperation and metallurgical projects.

Prior to President Chirac’s visit, the committee of Nouméa Accord signatories, including the French Minister for Overseas Territories and representatives of RPCR and FLNKS, met in June in Kone, New Caledonia. According to France, the parties affirmed in a joint declaration that the institutions created by the Accord were working well and that the transfer of powers was continuing. The committee members reaffirmed their intentions to meet frequently and to follow closely the implementation of the Accord and ongoing reforms.

In September, a visiting French parliamentary delegation also concluded that implementation of the Nouméa Accord was proceeding well. However, the Kanak community argued that the reforms outlined in the Accord were being implemented too slowly, especially those relating to voters’ residency requirements [YUN 2001, p. 538], which remained unsettled pending the scheduling of a joint session of the French National Assembly and the Senate to ratify a constitutional amendment on the issue; President Chirac promised a resolution of the question by 2007. A long-delayed FLNKS congress was to be held in December, during which its two main constituent parties, the Union calédonienne and Palîka, hoped to resolve their disputes and draw up a common platform for the May 2004 provincial elections. FLNKS had been leaderless since 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 541], a situation that was expected to continue until after the elections. The ongoing instability could jeopardize the Nouméa Accord process, and the dissolution of FLNKS could not be ruled out.

The inter-ethnic strain between Kanaks and settlers from the French territory of Wallis and Futuna continued to cause tension. After a long-standing dispute over the housing of people from Wallis and Futuna on disputed land near Nouméa, the last 30 Wallisian families were moved from the area under police guard in September, prompting claims of ethnic cleansing by Didier Leroux, leader of the Opposition Alliance Party. The Wallisians were expected to seek compensation from France. Nevertheless, the Kanak and Wallisian communities signed an accord in December stipulating that the principle of dialogue on all decisions taken by New Caledonia could affect its inhabitants from Wallis and Futuna.

In September, the Customary Senate, considered the institutional guarantor of Kanak identity, with a rotating presidency, selected a new chief, Gabriel Poadac. Mr. Poadac promised to focus on indigenous rights to New Caledonia’s nickel resources, the teaching of indigenous languages in schools and the mapping of traditional lands.

On 12 June, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question of New Caledonia [A/AC.109/2003/23], deciding to keep under continuous review the Nouméa Accord process and to report to the General Assembly in 2004.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/480], adopted resolution 58/106 without vote [agenda item 9].

**Question of New Caledonia**

_The General Assembly,_

_Having considered_ the question of New Caledonia,

_Having examined_ the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,

_Reaffirming_ the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,
Recalling its resolutions 134(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 135(XV) of 15 December 1960,
Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,
Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia.
Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region.
1. Welcomes the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia as exemplified by the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998 by the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;
2. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;
3. Notes the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of the Territory, and also those provisions of the Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment;
4. Also notes the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, according to their regulations;
5. Further notes the agreement between the signatories of the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;
6. Welcomes the fact that the administering Power invited to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions were established, a mission of information which comprised representatives of countries of the Pacific region;
7. Calls upon the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of New Caledonia to the Secretary-General;
8. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord, which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;
9. Welcomes measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;
10. Also welcomes the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;
11. Acknowledges the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;
12. Notes the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;
13. Acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;
14. Welcomes, in this regard, the accession by New Caledonia to the status of observer in the Pacific Islands Forum, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;
15. Decides to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;
16. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Tokelau

On 23 June, the Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of Tokelau (the three small atolls of Nukunonu, Fakaofo and Atafu in the South Pacific), administered by New Zealand [A/58/25]. Before it was a Secretariat working paper covering constitutional and political developments and economic and social conditions in the Territory, and setting out the positions of New Zealand and Tokelau on the Territory’s future status [A/AC.109/2004/10].

A later Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2004/8] reported that, in January, Fakaofo’s Faipule (the representative of each village/atoll), Kolouei O’Brien, was installed as Ulu-o-Tokelau (titular head of the Territory), a position that was rotated annually among the three Faipule.

Following a review of representation within the General Fono (Tokelau’s national representative body) at the October meeting of its Special Committee on the Constitution and by a November meeting of the General Fono, it was decided that existing arrangements would be maintained.
for the time being. The October meeting endorsed the General Fono’s current powers and decided to appoint an independent Chairperson of the General Fono on an annual rotation. The General Fono took a number of decisions relating to Tokelau’s legislative framework, passed new laws on issues such as dangerous goods, criminal proceedings, business incorporation rules, biosecurity and health regulations, land ownership, and the role of Law Commissioners, and enacted rules concerning Tokelau’s observance of international human rights norms and standards. It also renamed the Council of Faipule the Council for Ongoing Government and expanded its membership to include the Pulenuku (mayor) from each of the villages.

In June, the General Fono agreed that the three Village Councils should assume full responsibility for all public services on their atolls by 30 June 2004. The decision stemmed from an earlier agreement on the Modern House project aimed at strengthening governance structures. The Territory’s New Zealand–instituted by funding from UNDP.

The General Fono also agreed that the activities previously undertaken under the Modern House project aimed at strengthening governance systems, boosting capability and enhancing development would henceforth be mainstreamed and run under the overall annual budget and planning process. From 1 July and beginning with the 2003/04 budget, Tokelau would be responsible for its full budget, including the budgetary support grant and development assistance provided by New Zealand.

Also in June, following a series of consultations, the General Fono agreed on the Principles of Partnership statement, which would be put before the New Zealand Cabinet, committed New Zealand to the ongoing provision of economic and technical support and outlined the way in which the two partners would work together for Tokelau’s benefit. A constitutional conference would be held later in the year to discuss Tokelau’s future political development.

At a 7 October meeting of the Fourth Committee, New Zealand noted that the Joint Statement on the Principles of Partnership, a political rather than legal document, was intended to give Tokelau some certainty and confidence as it worked towards self-determination. An early requirement was to develop information material on the three options available to NSGTs. New Zealand, with the cooperation of UNDP, would be
working towards that goal, and Tokelau had organized a series of constitutional workshops.

At a 23 June meeting of the Special Committee on decolonization, the Ulu-o-Tokelau stated that, at the current stage, Tokelau needed practical details of the implications of an act of self-determination, and he hoped that New Zealand and the Special Committee would listen to Tokelau’s views with regard to the pace of the process of exercising that right. The Ulu-o said that Tokelau was grateful to New Zealand for its efforts to express formally the principles underpinning the unique relationship between the two countries, and that the Principles of Partnership provided a firm foundation for Tokelau’s ongoing development. The aim of current village consultations on constitutional developments was to assist the Council of Faipule to set an agenda for the upcoming September constitutional conference, and options for self-determination and governance arrangements would be part of the agenda. Devolution of authority to villages and traditional institutions was key to Tokelau’s future.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/480], adopted resolution 58/107 without vote [agenda item 19].

**Question of Tokelau**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau,

Recalling the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau, contained in the 1994 “Voice of Tokelau”, which stated that an act of self-determination in Tokelau was under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the then preference of Tokelau was for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also its resolution 1544(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 57/177 of 11 December 2002,

Recalling further the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau’s special relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help that Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established within the framework of that relationship, Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization,

Recalling the dispatch in August 2002 of a United Nations Mission to Tokelau, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the representatives of Tokelau,

Recalling also the report of the United Nations Mission to Tokelau, 2002,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. Notes that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1544(XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. Also notes the desire of Tokelau to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. Further notes the inauguration in 1999 of a national Government based on village elections by universal adult suffrage;

4. Acknowledges Tokelau’s goal to return authority to its traditional leadership, and its wish to provide that leadership with the necessary support to carry out its functions in the contemporary world;

5. Acknowledges also the progress made towards that goal under the Modern House of Tokelau project, and welcomes the decision taken by the General Fono in June 2003 to set a target date of 30 June 2004 for the transfer to each Taupulega (Village Council) of full responsibility for the management of all its public services;

6. Acknowledges further Tokelau’s initiative in devising a strategic economic development plan for the period 2002-2004 to advance its capacity for self-government;

7. Notes that, consistent with the expressed desires of past traditional leaders and the principles of the Modern House of Tokelau, Tokelau has established a local public service employer;

8. Welcomes the continuing dialogue with the administering Power and the Territory with a view to the development of a programme of work for Tokelau in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000;

9. Acknowledges the continuing support that New Zealand has committed to the Modern House of Tokelau project in 2002-2003, and the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme in aligning its programmes under the project;

10. Notes that the Constitution of a self-governing Tokelau will continue to develop as a part and as a con-
sequence of the building of the Modern House of Tokelau, and that both have national and international importance for Tokelau;

II. Acknowledges Tokelau’s need for continued reassurance, given the cultural adjustments that are taking place with the strengthening of its capacity for self-government and, since local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau’s external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

12. Notes the special challenge inherent in the situation of Tokelau, among the smallest of the small Territories, and that a Territory’s exercise of its inalienable right to self-determination may be brought closer, as in the case of Tokelau, by the meeting of that challenge in innovative ways;

13. Acknowledges the desire of the partners to reaffirm their commitment to each other, and welcomes the agreement reached in Wellington on 19 June 2003 on the text of an agreement on the principles underpinning the relationship for which the formal approval of the Government of New Zealand is being sought;

14. Welcomes the assurance of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

15. Also welcomes the cooperative attitude of the other States and Territories in the region towards Tokelau, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;


17. Reaffirms its approval of the report of the United Nations Mission to Tokelau, 2002;

18. Notes that a study to review the options for Tokelau’s future self-determination is recommended in the report, and further notes the willingness expressed by the United Nations Development Programme to assist in this regard upon request from Tokelau;

19. Calls upon New Zealand and Tokelau to consider developing an information programme to apprise the population of Tokelau of the nature of self-determination, including the three options of integration, free association and independence, so that it may be better prepared to face a future decision on this matter, and welcomes the invitation extended to the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to attend the constitutional convention to be held in Tokelau;

20. Calls upon the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops its economy and governance structures in the context of its ongoing constitutional evolution;

21. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Western Sahara

The Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of Western Sahara on 9 June [A/58/25]. A Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2003/1] detailed the Secretary-General’s good offices with the parties concerned and action taken by the General Assembly and Security Council (see p. 257). The Special Committee transmitted the relevant documentation to the Assembly’s fifty-eighth (2003) session to facilitate the Fourth Committee’s consideration of the question. The Secretary-General’s report was submitted to the Assembly in July [A/58/T1].

Island Territories


GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/480], adopted resolutions 58/108 A and B without vote [agenda item 19].

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A

General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as “the Territories”,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,
Recalling its resolution 154(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 154(XV), 154(XV) and other resolutions,

Recognizing also that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are consistent with the principles of equal rights of peoples to self-determination or natural resources, territorial size, geographical location, size of populations of self-determination, without any prejudice to any other resolution or decision of the United Nations, or the practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, within the context of the constitutional developments in some Territories.

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principle of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories, and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Welcoming also the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Noting the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories about which the Special Committee has received information,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained under the supervision of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfill its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to embark actively on a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining an understanding of the options of self-determination,

Mindful, in this connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfill its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in their success, while recognizing the need for reviewing the role of those seminars in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful also that, by holding a Caribbean regional seminar at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2005, the Special Committee was able to hear the views of the representatives of the Territories and Member States as well as organizations and experts in the region, in order to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Territories.

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation and, in this connection, bearing in mind the programmes of action of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the
Article 73 in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in this regard;

7. Reaffirms also the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. Requests the Territories and the administering Powers to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any environmental degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

9. Calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other offences;

10. Notes the cooperative efforts of some Non-Self-Governing Territories to address the problem of illegal drugs, with a focus on demand reduction, education, treatment and legal issues;

11. Notes with concern that the plan of action for the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was not fully implemented by 2000, and stresses the importance of implementing the plan of action for the Second International Decade, in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis;

12. Invites the administering Powers to participate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to enter into constructive dialogue with the Special Committee before the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly in order to implement the provisions of Article 75 e of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for the period 2001-2010;

13. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

14. Urges also the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social life of the Territories, and calls for closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in furtherance of the provision of assistance to the Territories;

15. Notes that some Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by one administering Power, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, namely, of amending or enacting legislation for the Territories through Orders in Council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power;
16. Takes note of statements made by the elected representatives of the Territories concerned and other appropriate authorities emphasizing their willingness to cooperate in all international efforts aimed at preventing abuse of the international financial system and to promote regulatory environments with highly selective licensing procedures, robust supervisory practices and well-established anti-money-laundering regimes;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of decolonization resolutions since the declaration of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

18. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the small Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session with recommendations on appropriate ways to assist the peoples of the Territories in exercising their right to self-determination.

B Individual Territories

The General Assembly,
Referring to resolution A above,

I American Samoa

Taking note of the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the Territory’s present relationship with the United States of America, as reflected in statements made by those leaders in the regional seminars held in Havana, Cuba, and Nadi, Fiji, in 2001 and 2002, respectively,

Noting that the Government of the Territory continues to have financial, budgetary and internal control problems, but that it has recently taken steps to increase revenues and decrease government expenditures,

Noting also that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience a lack of adequate medical and other infrastructural facilities,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

Concerned that massive flooding and mudslides in May 2003 resulted in loss of life and damage initially estimated by the territorial Government at more than 50 million United States dollars, and taking note of the official request by the Territory for recovery assistance from the administering Power,

1. Notes that the Department of the Interior of the United States of America provides that the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa;

2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthen other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory, and welcomes the assistance from the administering Power to the Territory in its recovery efforts following the recent floods;

3. Welcomes the invitation extended to the Special Committee by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory, and calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission;

II Anguilla

Noting the continuation of the conduct of the constitutional and electoral reform review process in the Territory,

Welcoming the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, the first time that the seminar has been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory, Noting the desire of the territorial Government and the people of Anguilla for a visiting mission by the Special Committee.

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money-laundering,

1. Welcomes the emphasis placed in the initial stages of the constitutional and electoral reform review process on participation, information and education and the support provided by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Kingdom Government fund for good government;

2. Welcomes the cooperation of the territorial Government of Anguilla and the United Kingdom in holding the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, and notes that the staging of the seminar in a Non-Self-Governing Territory for the first time as well as a town hall meeting between the people of Anguilla and the Special Committee during the seminar contributed to its success;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

III Bermuda

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995, and conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

1. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to work with the Territory for its socio-economic development;

2. Welcomes the agreement reached in June 2002 between the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Territory formally transferring the former military base lands to the territorial Government, and the provision of financial resources to address some of the environmental problems;

3. Welcomes also the convening in the Territory in March 2003 of an international conference on conservation in overseas territories and other small island States, which included governmental and non-governmental organizations to address issues of common concern;
IV

British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the steps currently being taken to review the Constitution with the aim of modernizing it,

Noting that the Territory continues to emerge as one of the world’s leading offshore financial centres, and that the financial services sector is becoming the cornerstone of the Government’s recurrent budget,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money-laundering,

Noting further that the Territory commemorated its annual British Virgin Islands–United States Virgin Islands Friendship Day on 31 May 2003 in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas,

Requests the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the Territory with assistance for socio-economic aims;

Noted the recommendations of the administering Power as supported by Guam voters in the plebiscite of 1987 and as provided for in Guam law, encourages the administering Power to inform the Territory to external factors;

V

Cayman Islands

Noting the formation for the first time of a political party in the Territory and the subsequent emergence of a party system in the Territory,

Taking note of the constitutional review process being undertaken by the territorial Government in consultation with the administering Power,

Noting the actions taken by the territorial Government to promote increased participation by the local population in the decision-making process in the economic and social sectors in the Cayman Islands,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money-laundering, and noting the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting the approval by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly of the Territory’s Vision 2008 Development Plan, which aims to promote development that is consistent with the aims and values of Caymanian society.

1. Welcomes the completion of the report of the Constitutional Review Commission, which conducted an extensive review of the current Constitution, and the recommended changes, following public discussions with community groups and individuals, pursuant to the recommendations of the administering Power as stated in its White Paper entitled “Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories”.

2. Requests the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. Requests the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

VI

Guam

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act are no longer continuing and that Guam has established the process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representatives of the Territory at the 5th meeting of the Fourth Committee on 3 October 2002,

Concerning the 2001 census figures in the Territory show that 23 per cent of the population lives in poverty,

1. Calls upon the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the plebiscite of 1987 and as provided for in Guam law, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to enter into negotiations on the matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to that end;

2. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Also requests the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue...
to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory;

4. Further requests the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

5. Requests the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

6. Also requests the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agricultural and other viable activities;

7. Calls upon the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to Guam as requested by the territorial Government;

VII

Montserrat

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the Chief Minister of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of the volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory’s population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom, and which continues to have enduring consequences upon the economy of the island,

Welcoming the continued assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

Noting with concern that a number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

Noting that the Chief Minister of Montserrat assumed the chairmanship of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in May 2003,

1. Calls upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

2. Takes note of the completion of the report of the Constitutional Review Commission prepared after extensive consultations with Montserratians both in the Territory and abroad and the consensus that, while Montserratians reserve the right to future self-determination, independence is not a priority given the present socio-economic status of the Territory;
2. Calls upon the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money-laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. Notes with interest the joint memorandum of cooperation on the ex-loans;

5. Notes with concern the entering into force in 2001 of the 24th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands, opposing the assumption by the administering Power of submerged land in territorial waters, including its articulation in resolution 1609 of 9 April 2001, and once again requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, under its records and archives management programme, to assist the Territory in carrying out its archival and artefacts initiative;

6. Notes the position of the territorial Government, including its articulation in resolution 1609 of 9 April 2001, and once again requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, under its records and archives management programme, to assist the Territory in carrying out its archival and artefacts initiative;

XI

United States Virgin Islands

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information provided by the representative of the Governor of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003;

Noting the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community and the current request by the Territory to the administering Power for the delegation of authority to proceed,

Noting also the expressed interest of the territorial Government to be included in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting further the necessity of further diversifying the economy of the Territory,

Noting the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

Recalling that the Territory has not received a United Nations visiting mission since 1977, and bearing in mind the formal request of the Territory for such a mission in 1993 to assist the Territory in its political education process and to observe the Territory’s only referendum on political status options in its history,

Noting that the Territory commemorated its annual British Virgin Islands–United States Virgin Islands Friendship Day on 31 May 2003 in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas,

1. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

2. Once again requests the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States;

3. Calls for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

4. Notes the economic difficulties being experienced by the territorial Government and the fiscal austerity measures being implemented, and others proposed, to relieve the Territory’s cash flow shortage, and calls upon the administering Power to continue to provide every assistance required by the Territory to further alleviate the difficult economic situation, including, inter alia, the provision of debt relief and loans;

5. Notes with interest the entering into force in 2001 of the joint memorandum of cooperation on the exchange of artefacts between the Territory and Denmark, the Territory’s former administering Power, as a companion agreement to the 1999 memorandum for the repatriation of archival material from the Danish colonial period, consistent with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001, and once again requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, under its records and archives management programme, to assist the Territory in carrying out its archival and artefacts initiative;

UN public information

The General Assembly’s Committee on Information, at its twenty-fifth session (New York, 28 April–9 May) [A/58/21], continued to consider UN public information policies and activities and to evaluate and follow up efforts made and progress achieved in information and communications. The major report before the Committee dealt with the reorientation of UN activities in the field of public information and communications. Other reports covered programmatic aspects of the proposed 2004-2005 programme budget for the Department of Public Information (DPI), implementation of the pilot project on the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations, modernization and integrated management of UN libraries, the 2002 activities of the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) [YUN 2002, p. 589] and the structure and operations of the UN information centres (UNICs).

Those reports and the Secretary-General’s report on questions relating to information [A/58/175] are discussed in the relevant sections below.

By decision 58/325 of 9 December, the Assembly increased the Committee’s membership from 99 to 102.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/475], adopted resolution 58/101 A without vote [agenda item 86].

Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information, Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed “a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process”:

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunications links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;

(v) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

Also on 9 December [meeting 72] and on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/475, orally revised], the Assembly adopted resolution 58/101 B without vote [agenda item 86].

United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its decision to consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, Concurring with the view of the Secretary-General that the fundamental premise underlying the reorganization efforts of the Department of Public Information remains General Assembly resolution 13(1) of 13 February 1946, establishing the Department, which states in paragraph 2 of annex I that “the activities of the Department should be so organized and directed as to promote to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world”,Concurring also with the view of the Secretary-General that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications should permeate all levels of the Organization, as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

Stressing that the primary mission of the Department of Public Information is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive and timely information to the public on the tasks and
responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency.

Noting that the comprehensive review of the work of the Department of Public Information, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, and the implementation of its first phase, described in the report of the Secretary-General on reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fourth session, as well as the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change”, and its resolution 51/300 of 20 December 2002, as they apply to the Department of Public Information, provide an opportunity to take further steps to rationalize the work of the Department in order to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, and to maximize the use of its resources;

Expressing its concern that the gap in the information and communication technologies between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the present information and technology revolution, and, in this regard, underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances of the global information and technology revolution in order to make it more just, equitable and effective,

Recognizing that developments in the information and communication technology revolution open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and, at the same time, emphasizing that it also poses challenges and risks and could lead to the further widening of disparities between and within countries,

Recalling its resolution 56/192 of 15 February 2002 on multilingualism, and emphasizing the importance of making appropriate use of the official languages of the United Nations in the activities of the Department of Public Information, aiming to eliminate the disparity between the use of English and the other five official languages,

Welcoming Saudi Arabia to membership in the Committee on Information,

I

Introduction

1. Reaffirms its resolution 13(I), in which it established the Department of Public Information, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions related to the activities of the Department;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993 and other mandates as established by the General Assembly;

3. Emphasizes the importance of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 as a guideline that sets out the overall orientation of the public information programme for the Organization’s goals through effective communication;

4. Reaffirms that the United Nations remains the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world and that its voice must be heard in a clear and effective manner, and emphasizes the essential role the Department of Public Information in this context;

5. Welcomes the proposals of the Secretary-General to improve the effective and targeted delivery of public information activities, including the restructuring of the Department of Public Information, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

6. Reaffirms the central role of the Committee on Information in United Nations public information activities, policies and activities, including the restructuring process of the Department of Public Information, and the prioritization of its activities, and welcomes the continued constructive interaction between the Department and the members of the Committee;

7. Calls upon Member States to ensure, to the extent possible, that recommendations relating to the programme of the Department of Public Information originate and are considered in the Committee on Information;

8. Requests the Department of Public Information, following the priorities laid down by the General Assembly in the medium-term plan and using the United Nations Millennium Declaration as its guide, to pay particular attention to such major issues as the eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, sustainable development, human rights, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the needs of the African continent;

9. Also requests the Department of Public Information to pay attention to all major issues addressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals in carrying out its activities;

10. Concurs with the Secretary-General on the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Public Information in order to widen its outreach and improve the United Nations web site;

11. Recognizes the important work carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its collaboration with news agencies and broadcasting organizations in developing countries in disseminating information on priority issues, and encourages a continued collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education and communication;

II

General activities of the Department of Public Information

12. Welcomes the steps taken towards the restructuring of the Department of Public Information, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue the reorientation exercise and efforts to improve the efficiency and productivity of the Department, including wide-ranging and possibly new innovative proposals, taking into account broad principles and directions contained
in the present resolution, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session;

13. **Reaffirms** that the Department of Public Information is the focal point for information policies of the United Nations and the primary news centre for information about the United Nations, its activities and those of the Secretary-General, and encourages a closer integration of functions between the Department and those offices providing spokesman services for the Secretary-General;

14. **Welcomes** the progress achieved since the commencement of the reorientation exercise in enhancing the performance and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information in accordance with the mandates established by the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information, also welcomes, in this regard, its decision to implement an annual programme impact review, making self-evaluation a part of the daily work of all programme managers with a view to institutionalizing performance management, and requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report on the Department’s annual programme impact review to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

15. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in the context of the reorientation process, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations web site and the United Nations News Service, contain comprehensive, objective and equitable information about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

16. **Reiterates** that all printed materials of the Department of Public Information, in accordance with existing mandates, should not duplicate other publications of the United Nations system and should be produced in a cost-effective manner;

17. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Department of Public Information to reconstitute the Publications Board, in accordance with existing legislative mandates;

18. **Urges** the Department of Public Information to continue to exhibit transparency to the greatest extent possible, so as to increase awareness of the impact of its programmes and activities;

19. **Emphasizes** that, through its reorientation, the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, including countries in transition, and that such reorientation contributes to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

20. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to strengthen the coordination between the Department of Public Information and other departments of the Secretariat, including the designation of focal points to work with substantive departments to identify target audiences and develop information programmes and media strategies for priority issues, and emphasizes that public information capacities and activities in other departments should function under the guidance of the Department;

21. **Welcomes** the initiatives that have been taken by the Department of Public Information to strengthen the public information system of the United Nations, and, in this regard, stresses the importance of a coherent and results-oriented approach being taken by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the programmes and funds of the United Nations system involved in public information activities as well as the provision of resources for their implementation, and that feedback from Member States on the relevance and effectiveness of its programme delivery should be taken into account;

22. **Also welcomes** the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Communications Group in 2002, commends the Department of Public Information on its active and constructive participation in the Group, in particular its efforts to promote inter-agency coordination in the field of public information, encourages the Department to continue to play a key role in the newly established Group, takes note of the efforts being undertaken by the Group to develop further several key initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at successive sessions on the activities of the Group;

23. **Appreciates** the continued efforts of the Department of Public Information in issuing daily press releases, and requests the Department to continue providing this invaluable service to both Member States and representatives of the media, while considering possible means of improving their production process and streamlining their format, structure and length, keeping in mind the views of Member States and the fact that other departments may be providing similar or overlapping services in this regard;

24. **Acknowledges** the mission statement proposed in the report of the Secretary-General, which is intended to include all activities of the Department, and which reads as follows: “The Department of Public Information’s mission is to help fulfill the substantive purposes of the United Nations by strategically communicating the activities and concerns of the Organization to achieve the greatest public impact”;

25. **Welcomes** the new operating model of the Department of Public Information as described in the report of the Secretary-General which, inter alia, recognizes that content generation emanates from the other departments and offices of the Secretariat and organizations of the United Nations system, while content coordination and refinement as well as content presentation and distribution are the responsibility of the Department, working in close cooperation with the media, Member States and civil society partners;

26. **Requests** that during the deliberations on the item entitled “Questions relating to information” in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) during the successive regular sessions of the General Assembly, an informal interaction between the Secretariat and members of the Committee should take place after the presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information on the substance of that oral briefing, within existing resources;
Multilingualism and public information
27. Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to enhance multilingualism in its activities and encourages the Department to continue its endeavours in this regard; 28. Emphasizes the importance of ensuring the full, equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all activities of the Department of Public Information, and stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 52/224 of 22 December 1997, in section C of which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the texts of all new public documents in all six official languages, and information materials of the United Nations, are made available daily through the United Nations web site and are accessible to Member States without delay; 29. Reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information has appropriate staffing capacity in all official languages of the United Nations to undertake all its activities; 30. Reminds the Secretary-General of the need to include in future programme budget proposals for the Department of Public Information the importance of using all six official languages in its activities;

Bridging the digital divide
31. Recalls the decision, endorsed in its resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, to convene the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, welcomes the initiatives undertaken by the Department of Public Information for this Summit, encourages States, relevant United Nations bodies and entities, other intergovernmental institutions and civil society to continue to actively participate in this process, and reaffirms the importance of the active involvement and support of the Department in raising global awareness of the Summit and its main objectives;
32. Commends the Secretary-General for the establishment of the United Nations Information Technology Service, the Health InterNetwork and the Information and Communications Technology Task Force with a view to bridging the digital divide and as a response to the continuing gulf between developed and developing countries, welcomes the contribution of the Department of Public Information in publicizing the efforts of the Secretary-General to close the digital divide as a means of spurring economic growth and as a response to the continuing gulf between developed and developing countries, and, in this context, requests the Department to further enhance its role;

III
New programmatic priorities for the Department of Public Information
33. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 for the Department of Public Information, and welcomes the new subprogramme structure that includes: strategic communications services, news services, library services and outreach services; 34. Acknowledges that the Department of Public Information, with the assistance of the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, is currently in the process of formulating methodologies and conducting a systematic evaluation of the impact, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the activities of the Department over a three-year period, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session;
35. Reaffirms that the Department of Public Information must prioritize its work programme while respecting existing mandates and in line with rule 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, to focus its message and concentrate its efforts better and, as a function of performance management, to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms;
36. Underlines the need for the proposed indicators of achievement and expected accomplishments, which for the first time form part of the proposed programme budget, to be clearly defined, measurable and able to contribute to a meaningful evaluation of activities;

United Nations information centres
37. Stresses that the United Nations information centres and information components or regional hubs, as applicable, should play a significant role in disseminating information about the work of the Organization to the peoples of the world, including in the areas outlined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and emphasizes that the information centres, or regional hubs, as applicable, as the “field voice” of the Department of Public Information, should promote public awareness of and mobilize support for the work of the United Nations at the local level, bearing in mind that information in the local languages has the strongest impact on the local populations;
38. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the structure and operations of United Nations information centres, and requests the Secretary-General to submit further detailed information to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session;
39. Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to United Nations information centres with a view to possibly transferring resources from information centres in developed countries to United Nations information activities in developing countries, emphasizing the needs of the least developed countries, and to any other activities of high priority, such as multilingualism on the United Nations web site and evaluation of services, in consultation with concerned Member States;
40. Reaffirms paragraph 15 of its resolution 57/300, in which it took note of the proposal of the Secretary-General contained in action 8 of his report, to rationalize the network of United Nations information centres around regional hubs, where appropriate, in consultation with concerned Member States, starting with the creation of a Western European hub, followed by a similar approach in other high-cost developed countries, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the proposal with the objective of applying this initiative in
other regions, in consultation with Member States, where this initiative will strengthen the flow and exchange of information in developing countries;

41. **Encourages** the efforts by some United Nations information centres to develop their own web pages in local languages, also encourages the Department of Public Information to provide resources and technical facilities, in particular to those information centres whose web pages are not yet operational and to develop web pages in the respective local languages of their host countries, and further encourages host countries to respond to the needs of the information centres;

42. **Recalls** the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the host countries of United Nations information centres to facilitate the work of the centres in their countries by providing rent-free or rent-subsidized premises, while taking into account the economic condition of the host countries and bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

43. **Notes** the continuing support of the Department of Public Information in the consolidation of the United Nations field presence in a single United Nations house, and requests the Secretary-General to report in detail on the progress made to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session;

IV

**Strategic communications services**

44. **Acknowledges** that the strategic communications services, to be implemented by the newly created Strategic Communications Division, will be responsible for devising and disseminating United Nations messages by developing communications strategies, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, in full compliance with the legislative mandates;

**Promotional campaigns**

45. **Recognizes** that promotional campaigns aimed at supporting special sessions and international conferences of the United Nations are part of the core responsibility of the Department of Public Information, and welcomes the efforts of the Department to examine creative ways in which it can organize and implement these campaigns in partnership with the substantive departments concerned, using the United Nations Millennium Declaration as its guide;

46. **Supports** the efforts of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, such as sustainable development, children, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and decolonization, as well as the dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and tolerance and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and encourages the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of these and other important global issues;

47. **Encourages** the Department of Public Information to continue to work within the United Nations Communications Group to coordinate the implementation of communication strategies with the heads of information of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

48. **Encourages** the Department of Public Information to continue to work within the United Nations Communications Group to coordinate the implementation of communication strategies with the heads of information of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

49. **Stresses** the need for the renewed emphasis in support of Africa’s development, in particular by the Department of Public Information, in order to promote awareness in the international community of the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa and of the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development;

Role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping

50. **Comments** the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information for the establishment and functioning of the information components of peacekeeping operations and of political and peace-building missions of the United Nations, including its promotional efforts and other information support activities, and requests the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department from the planning stage of future operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

51. **Stresses** the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in the field of peacekeeping operations and its role in the selection process of spokespersons for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions, and, in this regard, encourages the Secretariat to continue to support spokespersons who have the necessary skills to fulfill the tasks of the operations or missions, taking into account the equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Chapter XV, Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

52. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Committee on Information on the role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping at its successive sessions;

53. **Welcomes** the transfer of the functions of the Cartographic Section from the Department of Public Information to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, since the outputs of the Section are more closely aligned to the needs and activities of that Department;

V

**News services**

54. **Stresses** that the central objective of the news services, implemented by the News and Media Division, is the timely delivery of accurate, objective and balanced news and information emanating from the United Nations system in all four mass media—print, radio, television and Internet—to the media and other audiences worldwide with the overall emphasis on multilingualism;
Traditional means of communication

55. Also stresses that radio remains one of the most cost-effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, including development and peacekeeping, with a view to achieving a broad client base around the world;

56. Notes with satisfaction the success of the pilot project on the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations, and endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General that the pilot project be made an integral part of the activities of the Department;

57. Requests the Secretary-General to pay full attention to the parity of the six official languages in expanding the international radio broadcasting capacity;

58. Notes the efforts being made by the Department of Public Information to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages, with the addition of Portuguese, as well as in other languages, where possible, and, in this regard, stresses the need for impartiality and objectivity concerning information activities of the United Nations;

59. Encourages the Department of Public Information to continue building partnerships with local, national and regional broadcasters to extend the United Nations message to all the corners of the world;

60. Emphasizes that United Nations Radio and Television should take full advantage of the technological infrastructure made available in recent years, including satellite platforms, information and communication technologies and the Internet, and requests the Secretary-General, as a part of the reorientation of the Department of Public Information, to consider a global strategy for broadcasting, taking into account existing technologies;

United Nations web site

61. Reiterates its appreciation for the efforts of the Department of Public Information in creating a high-quality, user-friendly and cost-effective web site, noting that this is especially noteworthy considering the scope of the undertaking, the budget constraints within the United Nations and the remarkably rapid expansion of the World Wide Web, reaffirms that the web site remains a very useful tool for media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, Member States and the general public, and welcomes the creation of the United Nations web site on terrorism;

62. Encourages the Department of Public Information to continue to take the necessary measures in order to ensure accessibility to the United Nations web site by persons with disabilities, including visual and hearing disabilities, and asks the Department to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session on its efforts in this regard;

63. Notes with concern that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations web site has been slower than expected, because of a lack of resources, among other factors, and that content-providing offices have not, in general, been making their materials available on the United Nations web site in all six official languages;

64. Stresses the need to adopt a decision on the multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of the United Nations web site, considering, inter alia, the possibility of organizational restructuring towards separate language units for each of the six official languages within the Department of Public Information, in order to achieve full parity among the official languages of the United Nations;

65. Reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to ensure, until such a decision has been taken and implemented, to the extent possible and while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate web site, the equitable distribution of financial and human resources within the Department of Public Information allocated to the United Nations web site among all official languages on a continuous basis, and to make every possible effort to ensure also that all materials contained on the web site that do not change and do not need regular maintenance are made available in all six official languages;

66. Also reaffirms the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations web site, and, in this regard, takes note of the proposal of the Secretary-General, as contained in paragraph 33 of his report on the continued development, maintenance and enrichment of the United Nations web site in the six official languages, to translate all English materials and databases posted on the United Nations web site by the respective content-providing offices of the Secretariat into all official languages, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session on the most practical, efficient and cost-effective means of implementing this proposal;

67. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session proposals relating to the designation of a date by which all supporting arrangements would be in place for the implementation of this concept, after which date parity would continue, as well as proposals relating to the exemption from translation of specific items on the United Nations web site;

68. Stresses the importance of access for the public to the United Nations Treaty Collection and United Nations parliamentary documentation;

69. Encourages the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to continue to take full advantage of recent developments in information technology, including the Internet, in order to improve, in a cost-effective manner, the expeditious dissemination of information on the United Nations, in accordance with the priorities established by the General Assembly and taking into account the linguistic diversity of the Organization;

70. Welcomes the establishment of the United Nations News Centre in Arabic, and looks forward to the implementation of the United Nations News Centre in the remaining official languages by the end of 2005, with a view to achieving language parity on the United Nations web site;

71. Also welcomes the proposal of the Secretary-General to provide free, public access to the Official Document System of the United Nations through a linkage with the Organization’s web site for consideration in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005, and requests the Secretary-General...
to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session in this regard;

72. **Commends** the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat on its efforts to ensure that the required technological infrastructure is in place to accommodate the imminent linkage of the Official Document System to the United Nations web site, and also commends the Department of Public Information for addressing issues of content management relating to that System;

73. **Notes** that the integration of the Official Document System with the United Nations web site will significantly enhance the multilingual nature of the site and will lead to efficiencies throughout all Secretariat departments through the elimination of duplicate formatting and duplicate posting of documents on the site;

74. **Welcomes** the electronic mail-based United Nations Information Network (UNITIN) which is available worldwide through e-mail by the Department of Public Information, and requests the Department to provide this service in all official languages, ensuring that news-breaking stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias;

75. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General on the efforts of the High-Level Committee on Management to establish a United Nations portal, an inter-agency search facility encompassing the public web sites of all United Nations system organizations, a description of which is contained in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General;

76. **Calls upon** the Department of Public Information to encourage all United Nations system entities to participate in the United Nations system search pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session on the activities of the High-Level Committee on Management in this regard;

**VI**

**Library services**

77. **Notes** that the Dag Hammarskjöld Library is part of the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information, also notes the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to make the Library a virtual library with world outreach, reiterates the need to maintain the provision of hard copies to Member States, subject to the relevant provisions of its resolution 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, and further notes the efforts of the Secretary-General to enrich, on a multilingual basis, the stock of books and journals in the Library, including publications on peace and security and development-related issues, in order to ensure that the Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities;

78. **Welcomes** the creation of the Steering Committee on the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, which is to develop and implement a strategy to achieve a more modern, efficient and accessible system within the United Nations, requests the Secretary-General, in guiding the work of the Steering Committee, to take into account the specificity and comparative advantage of each member library while ensuring an integrated, coherent and co-ordinated approach on United Nations libraries management and policy, and also requests the Secretary-General to report on the work of the Steering Committee to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session;

79. **Recognizes** the importance of the depository libraries in disseminating information and knowledge about United Nations activities, and, in this connection, urges the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in its capacity as the focal point, to take the initiatives necessary to strengthen such libraries by providing regional training and other assistance;

80. **Notes** the holding of training courses, conducted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library for the representatives of Member States and Secretariat staff on the use of Cyberseek, web search, the Intranet, United Nations documentation, United Nations Info Quest and the Official Document System of the United Nations;

81. **Recalls** paragraph 44 of its resolution 56/64 B of 24 December 2001, in which it welcomed the role of the Department of Public Information in fostering increased collaboration among libraries of the United Nations system, particularly in establishing one central system-wide online catalogue that would allow for the searching of the bibliographic records of all print holdings of all United Nations system libraries; commends the International Computing Centre for developing the United Nations System Shared Cataloguing and Public Access System, which provides a single point of access to library catalogues, indexes and abstract databases, library holdings, links to full-text resources, and archives; also commends the Department for its role in the development of the United Nations Shared Cataloguing and Public Access System; requests the Department to encourage all United Nations system organizations to participate in the System; and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session in this regard;

82. **Looks forward** to the in-depth review of the library activities requested in paragraph 34 of its resolution 56/253, and requests that such a review be presented as soon as possible, and no later than at the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Information;

83. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General on modernizing and integrated management of United Nations libraries, and looks forward to further information and proposals as requested in paragraph 14 of its resolution 57/300, to be submitted to the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session;

**VII**

**Outreach services**

84. **Acknowledges** that the outreach services, which are to be implemented by the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information, will work towards promoting awareness of the role and work of the United Nations on priority issues;

85. **Notes** the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Public Information of the ongoing programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries in transition, as mandated by the General Assembly, and encourages the Department to consider how best to
maximize the benefits derived from the programme by reviewing, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants;

86. Recognizes the need for the Department of Public Information to increase its outreach services in all regions, and reiterates the need to include, in the re-orientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications, an analysis of the present reach and scope of the activities of the Department, identifying the widest possible spectrum of audiences and geographical areas that are not covered adequately and that may require special attention, including the appropriate means of communication and bearing in mind local language requirements;

87. Congratulates the United Nations Correspondents Association for its Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, which sponsors journalists from developing countries to come to the United Nations Headquarters and report on the activities during the General Assembly, and urges donors to extend financial support to the Fund so that it may increase the number of such scholarships to journalists in this context;

VIII

Final remarks

88. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

89. Requests the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

90. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Questions relating to information”.

Reorientation of information

and communications activities

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/130 B [YUN 2002, p. 590], the Secretary-General submitted a March report to the Committee on Information [A/AC.198/2002/2] on progress in repositioning DPI to meet the UN communications challenges with renewed focus and greater clarity of purpose. It built on a previous reorientation report [YUN 2002, p. 584], which outlined the findings of a comprehensive review of DPI’s management and operations and possible strategic actions to be taken as a result. The March report also detailed, in response to resolution 57/300 [ibid., p. 1355], the next phase of departmental reform and set out steps to be taken to implement the actions contained in the Secretary-General’s 2002 report on strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change, as they applied to DPI [ibid., p. 585]. To clarify its goals and purposes and enhance its effectiveness and efficiency, DPI formulated a new mission statement which affirmed that its mission was “to help fulfil the substantive purposes of the United Nations by strategically communicating the activities and concerns of the Organization to achieve the greatest public impact”. Its core message, in line with the Millennium Declaration adopted by Assembly resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 48], would focus on poverty eradication, conflict prevention, sustainable development, human rights, HIV/AIDS, the battle against international terrorism and the needs of Africa. To fulfil its mission, DPI would continue to disseminate the UN message, taking into account the needs of its target audiences, through traditional means, including print materials, radio and television, and the Internet on the UN web site and associated sites. Resource levels allocated to each function would be readjusted as part of a continuing review process.

The Secretary-General approved a new operating model for DPI, based on a clear conception of the Department’s role and an elaboration of its functions, emphasizing the communications needs of the United Nations, while also providing expected services to Member States. The model recognized that, while content emanated from other Secretariat departments and offices and UN system organizations, content coordination, refinement, presentation and distribution were DPI’s responsibility, in cooperation with the media, Member States and civil society. A new organizational structure for DPI based on that model, which included a Strategic Communications Division, a News and Media Division and an Outreach Division, was put into effect on 1 November 2002. The Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General remained administratively within and worked closely with DPI, but continued to report directly to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The former Public Affairs Division was abolished and its functions divided between the new Strategic Communications and Outreach Divisions.

The Strategic Communications Division would devise and disseminate UN messages centred around priority themes, and ensure that communication was placed at the heart of strategic management of the United Nations. The Division included the Information Centres Service, which managed the administrative, programme and dissemination functions of the global UNIC network, a Committee Liaison Unit, which included the secretariats of the Committee on Information and UNCC, and a Communications Campaign Service, which served client offices through focal points in its four sections: development; Palestine, decolonization and human rights; peace and security; and Africa. The new Africa Section was devoted to promoting Africa’s development and would include the quarterly magazine Africa Recovery, published in English and French, as one of its outputs. Information and operational
support for the information component of field missions would continue as a core function of the Peace and Security Section.

Thematic promotional campaigns would be implemented using all the Department’s assets, including its multimedia outlets, outreach to civil society, private sector partnerships and, at the local level, UNICs. A new issue-driven communications strategy for each department, rather than one that was event-driven, was being developed to promote UN work, building on the success of the global conferences campaigns.

The central objective of the News and Media Division was the real-time delivery of accurate, objective and balanced news and information to the media and other audiences worldwide in the context of the Internet-driven 24-hour news cycle, through the immediate dissemination in print, radio, television and the Internet, of news emanating from the UN system. The creation of an Internet Service, comprising the News Services and the Website Sections, had greatly facilitated the new approach. The new United Nations News Service, part of the United Nations News Centre on the web site, delivered news throughout the day to 10,000 subscribers in 130 countries; an Arabic version of the News Centre was launched in January and work was under way on similar sites in other official languages. Developments in the production and dissemination of the Division’s products were complemented by partnerships with broadcasters and other promotional activities.

DPI was placing new emphasis on its relations with clients and partners external to the United Nations through the Outreach Division, which combined much of the former Library and Information Resources Division with the functions previously carried out by the Public Liaison Service of the Public Affairs Division. Its Civil Society Service brought together under one umbrella the new Educational Outreach Section, “The UN Works” programme, partnerships with the private sector, ongoing programmes such as those for non-governmental organization (NGOs), and special programmes and observances, exhibits, guided tours and other services to the public. The Educational Outreach Section was strengthening relationships with the academic community by working closely with the Group Programmes Unit and the NGO Section, among other measures. DPI would widen the reach of its publications through an energized and constantly updated web site, and by placing their contents as syndicated features in publications around the world, with the assistance of UNICs.

As a first step in the implementation of the Secretary-General’s 2002 reform proposals [YUN 2002, p. 585], a Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries was established to improve the provision of UN library services (see p. 634). As to his proposals regarding UN publications, the Executive Committees would be called on to plan and coordinate all publications within their respective thematic areas [YUN 1997, p. 1389] in order to reduce their number and improve the coherence, focus and scheduling among the Organization’s many publications. DPI also planned to reconstitute the Publications Board within the Outreach Division as a standard-setting body with appropriate membership and terms of reference. The functions formerly performed by the Production and Coordination Unit had been eliminated or were being handled elsewhere. The Secretary-General’s proposal to transfer the Cartographic Section from DPI to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would be reflected in the context of the proposed 2004-2005 programme budget.

DPI was preparing to implement his proposal to rationalize the network of UNICs around regional hubs, starting with the creation of a Western European hub. The new operating concept aimed to achieve a more equitable distribution of resources to information centres in all regions and to redeploy resources to other high-priority activities, including advancing multilingualism on the UN web site and the systematic evaluation of the impact of major product and service lines, in accordance with results-based management.

(For more information on the regionalization of UNICs, see p. 637.)

Regarding performance management, DPI was formulating methodologies and planned to conduct a systematic evaluation of the impact, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its activities over a three-year period, with assistance from the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), as requested by the Assembly in resolution 57/300 [YUN 2002, p. 1533]. It had also introduced an annual programme impact review, with a view to institutionalizing performance management, and, in that context, agreed to be an OIOS pilot as it looked to update and promote monitoring and self-evaluation.

The report also provided information on the UN web site, which was dealt with in a separate report of the Secretary-General [A/58/271] (see p. 637).

Annexed to the report were guidelines and criteria for the regionalization of UNICs and information concerning the Official Document System and the UN web site portal, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/130 B [YUN 2002, p. 590].
Agenda for further change

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/300 [YUN 2002, p. 1353], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/56/531] on the status of implementation of reform measures described in his 2002 report on strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change [YUN 2002, p. 585], provided information on, among other subjects, enhancing public information and streamlining publications. The Secretary-General discussed the restructuring of DPI, the new evaluation process, the regionalization of UNICs and libraries management.

Updating the information provided in his March report to the Committee on Information (see p. 630), the Secretary-General said that results from the first annual programme impact review (see p. 631), which DPI was developing with OIOS, would be reported to the Committee on Information in 2004. By the end of 2003, the Department would have a set of preliminary performance measures in place, along with baseline data relating to departmental goals, following which a two-step process for assessing impact would be undertaken. Since the exercise would require resources and expertise not currently available to DPI, the involvement of external partners was anticipated. Training to support DPI’s new operating model was under way. Most programme managers had been trained in evaluation techniques, and staff at all levels were undergoing training in measuring the impact and effectiveness of products and activities.

DPI was working on an action plan, in consultation with Member States, to ensure a seamless transition from the model of UNICs at the national level to a regional model. The regional hub in Western Europe, to be created by 31 December, would be located in Brussels, Belgium (see p. 637). The Committee on Information would consider, in 2004, a progress report on the regional hub proposal, with the objective of applying the initiative in other regions.

The Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, established in January, was tasked with developing policies and coordinating operations among all UN libraries (see p. 634). It planned to complete by late 2003 the establishment of a multilingual UN libraries research gateway on the Internet, the creation of a master list of core areas of specialization at UN Libraries worldwide and the full incorporation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the Shared Indexing Programme.

The Publications Board was reconstituted as a standard-setting body in February, and its main mandate was to review and determine the policies governing the preparation, distribution and sale of printed and electronic publications, and to draft new and revised administrative instructions to implement publications policy. As a follow-up to resolution 57/300, a separate working group was established to examine the feasibility and cost of online publications delivery, supplemented by a print-on-demand capability. As an integral part of the preparation of the biennial budget, all publications programmes proposed by Secretariat entities were channelled through the relevant Executive Committees, each of which was responsible for reviewing plans for publication, ensuring coherence, avoiding duplication and establishing clear priorities regarding what was to be published. During the previous year, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs pioneered an exercise, which would continue annually, to coordinate its members’ publication programmes. Overall, there had been an 18 per cent decrease in recurrent publications and a 23 per cent decrease in non-recurrent publications during the period 2002/03 to 2004/05. Budget data indicated that 192 publications and reports had been discontinued.

UN international radio broadcasting capacity

The Committee on Information considered a March report of the Secretary-General [A/AC.198/2003/4], submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 56/64 B [YUN 2001, p. 559] and 57/130 B [YUN 2002, p. 590], on the implementation of the pilot project to develop an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations, which was launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 574]. The Secretary-General stated that DPI commissioned an independent, in-depth survey on the estimated worldwide audience for UN Radio programmes in the six official UN languages, plus Portuguese. Representing a snapshot of listenership as at November 2002, and carried out with the active participation of 180 partner stations, the survey estimated conservatively that more than 133 million people listened to UN Radio at least once a week. That figure did not include affiliate radio stations of partner broadcasters, nor stations transmitting by short wave or satellite. Such extensive outreach was achieved with the relatively small investment of the additional $2.4 million provided to DPI by Member States per biennium. Many of the participating partner stations were major national broadcasters, a clear indication of worldwide interest in UN Radio broadcasts. The daily UN Radio feeds provided a valuable service, supplying material not available from other news sources. UN Radio also provided a range and depth of coverage, including regional focus and regional voices,
and, as the public voice of the United Nations, it spoke with unique authority. However, technological factors, particularly the continuing heavy dependence on transmitting programmes through the telephone, were a constraint on the further fulfilment of the potential of UN Radio. Efforts by the international community to help bridge the digital divide, specifically by increasing broadcasters’ access to satellite and Internet technology, would help to overcome such limitations. The report described the methodology of the survey and included a breakdown of results by language and region.

To ensure the further expansion of UN Radio outreach, building partnerships with local, regional and national broadcasters worldwide continued to be a priority for DPI. UN Radio was also building a higher profile on the Internet through active cooperation with the United Nations News Centre, and the expansion of the News Centre into more of the official languages would increase the synergy between the two. The expansion of the UN Radio’s client base would continue to be central to DPI’s efforts to increase the interest of news organizations and the media. In that regard, renewed efforts would be directed towards Asia, where there was great potential. As part of its promotional efforts, DPI was exploring a number of possible initiatives, including coordinated telemarketing to cultivate new clients; an electronic newsletter with updated information on the Department’s radio programming and its radio station partners; and more regular participation of broadcasters in relevant major international meetings and conferences. An important element of the strategy was expanding the number of partners in developed countries. Work was under way on the new integrated and automated news-gathering and production capacity, which would considerably strengthen its capacity to provide broadcasters with material more rapidly and flexibly. The planned modernization and upgrading of the UN International Broadcasting Centre with digital technology would also greatly facilitate the dissemination of the radio programmes to client stations. Continued efforts by Member States to close the digital divide were directly relevant to DPI’s efforts to improve and expand its radio services.

The report concluded that radio remained the most potent means of communication for the United Nations, particularly in developing countries. A firm mandate from Member States to continue the international broadcasting capacity would ensure that radio continued to contribute, cost-effectively, to DPI’s overall goal of generating understanding about the United Nations.

**DPI activities**

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/190 B [YUN 2002, p. 590], the Secretary-General submitted a July report on questions relating to information [A/58/425], covering DPI’s activities from July 2002 to July 2003 and the implementation of the resolution’s recommendations. It also described progress in the implementation of the proposal for the regionalization of UNICs, as requested in resolution 57/300 [YUN 2002, p. 1353].

The report provided further details on the re-structuring of DPI, which was aligned to a new proposed four-part subprogramme under the 2004-2005 programme budget: subprogramme 1, communications services (Strategic Communications Division); subprogramme 2, news services (News and Media Division and the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General); subprogramme 3, library services (the Dag Hammarskjöld Library of the Outreach Division); and subprogramme 4, outreach services (the Outreach Division). The programmatic aspects of the 2004-2005 programme budget for DPI under Section 28, public information, were submitted in a March report of the Secretary-General [A/AC.98/2003/3] to the Committee on Information. (See p. 1399 for more information on the proposed 2004-2005 budget.)

As a result of the reform of DPI’s structure and operating methods, its message was more focused, its target audience better identified, its resources prioritized and certain outputs that were no longer useful or needed improvement identified. To maximize its capacity to deliver messages globally, the Department was developing synergies between the new technology and traditional means of communication.

To address the challenges it faced in connection with the Iraq crisis in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 285], DPI established a system-wide, inter-agency communications task force to ensure coordination of UN information gathering and to develop a joint communications strategy that would provide the UN system with a rapid public information response to the rapidly changing situation. Once conflict began in 2003 (see p. 333), DPI changed its focus, producing messages on the protection of Iraqi civilians, meeting their humanitarian needs, and preserving Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity. The current focus was on post-war rebuilding.

DPI remained fully engaged in thematic communications campaigns, using all assets at its disposal, including its multimedia outlets, civil society outreach, private sector partnerships and UNICs. It devised issue-driven communications strategies in connection with several major international conferences and global observances, and...
it coordinated promotional campaigns through the United Nations Communications Group (see p. 538). A long-standing but growing area of activity was DPI’s support for the information components of peacekeeping and peace-building and other political missions (see PART I, Chapter 1). In February, it participated in a multidisciplinary assessment mission to Côte d’Ivoire, resulting in recommendations on the public information component of the new UN mission as the crisis unfolded there (see p. 185).

DPI continued to strengthen the coordination and management of the UN web site and to offer guidance to other content providers, both inside and outside the Secretariat, in support of their Internet activities. Since September 2002, over 28,000 documents in the six official UN languages had been directly linked to the Official Document System (ODS), and it was expected that all ODS documents would be made freely accessible to the public by 2004. The Department continued to develop its in-house capability for live and on-demand webcasting, which was emerging as a cost-effective communication and information tool with global outreach. The UN News Centre portal was significantly enhanced as the major gateway on the UN web site to daily UN system news and information. An Arabic-language version was launched in January, and similar sites in the remaining three official languages (Chinese, Russian, Spanish) were to be operational by the third quarter of 2003, substantially advancing DPI’s goal of language parity on the UN web site. The e-mail service launched in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 586] to bring news directly to the desks of redisseminators in the media, civil society and academia was expanded to include service in Arabic and French.

The live radio project was firmly established as one of the important multimedia channels for strategically communicating UN activities and concerns to large audiences worldwide. In view of its proven successful and cost-effective global outreach, DPI requested that the project be made permanent and was seeking regular budget funding at the current level for the 2004-2005 biennium. United Nations Television continued to produce and distribute high-quality, in-house video coverage of meetings, press conferences and special events at Headquarters. DPI expanded considerably its formal partnerships with major television broadcasters around the world.

The UN Chronicle Feature Service, which, with the help of UNICs, redisseminated print articles from eminent contributors to select newspapers and magazines worldwide. The Cyberschoolbus, the web site for children and teachers, continued to develop new educational materials on a wide range of issues, and significant progress was made in translating its materials from English to Chinese, Russian and Spanish.

DPI continued to provide an intensive information programme for NGOs, particularly those associated with the Department and those having consultative status with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council. Reflecting its rigorous evaluation and review programme, DPI associated 30 new NGOs and dissociated 80 organizations that no longer met the criteria for association, bringing the total number of associated NGOs to 1,375.

The General Assembly, in resolution 58/270 of 23 December (see p. 1399), asked the Secretary-General, with the assistance of OIOS, to conduct a systematic evaluation of the impact, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of all DPI activities and report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Information and the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, in 2004.

**Library services**

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library continued to improve its web site in the six official languages to provide access to electronic information, as well as materials in hard copy, and to offer training programmes to mission personnel, Secretariat staff and depository libraries. As at May 2003, there were 405 UN depository libraries, 45 of which were visited and inspected by UN staff. In addition to oversight and training, the Library was increasingly emphasizing outreach to and by the depository libraries. It encouraged them to publicize their document collections and UN themes, and provided promotional materials to assist them; as from 1 June 2002, 10 depository libraries had held events in various countries.

The Library’s web page was also expanded, increasing the availability of materials in the six official languages. It reorganized its two major Internet-based services, UNBISNET and the UNBIS Thesaurus. The new UNBISNET provided for easier searching of the Library’s bibliographic databases and, with UNBISNET’s new features, the Library was able to establish direct links from the indexed record to the full text of more than 13,500 documents in ODS in all languages of issuance. The UNBIS Thesaurus was of-
ficially launched in March in the six official languages. The Library provided official users with access to a variety of external electronic services, including the Economist Intelligence Unit, Factiva, Oxford Analytica and SourceOECD, most acquired at concessional prices through the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisitions Consortium. It continued to make progress in the retrospective digitization of parliamentary documentation, and efforts were made to complete the language parity of documentation already digitized in English and uploaded to OIOS. The Library also assisted various Secretariat departments in converting their materials to electronic format.

The General Assembly, in resolution 58/270 of 25 December (see p. 1399), requested the Secretary-General to review, through OIOS, the operation and management of UN libraries, so as to assess their staffing requirements in the light of technological advances in the delivery of information, and to report to the Assembly in 2004.

Steering Committee

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/300 [YUN 2002, p. 1553], the Secretary-General reported in March [A/AC.138/2003/5] on the implementation of the measures he had proposed for improving the management of UN libraries in his 2002 report on strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change [YUN 2002, p. 585]. Arising out of a meeting between the Deputy Secretary-General, the Under-Secretaries-General for Communications and Public Information and for Management, representatives of the UN Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna, the regional commissions and the United Nations University, the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries was established in January. Its mandate was to facilitate interdependency, foster initiatives to create a dynamic, synergistic, and fully functional network of library services throughout the United Nations and encourage a shift from a culture of “ownership” to one of access in order to expand cooperative strategies for collection development and resource-sharing, and develop new ones.

Chaired by the Director of DPI’s Outreach Division and comprising representatives of each UN Office, the Steering Committee would meet quarterly to set priorities and policies. It would report to the Deputy Secretary-General through the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. The work of the Committee would concentrate on: inter-library management initiatives promoting collaborative and coordinated activities, products and services; optimization of financial resources; sharing best practices and lessons learned; expanded technical assistance programmes for the small, field and depository libraries; archival storage; digitization; bibliographic control of UN documentation; production of multilingual web pages and portals; collaborative reference services; database management and maintenance; strategies for marketing library outputs and services; staff training and development; and staff mobility. The Committee would also play a leading role in ensuring that all libraries of the Organization brought their specialized expertise in information management to bear in the development of all UN knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The report concluded that the Steering Committee’s primary aim would be to provide instantaneous, electronic access to a seamlessly integrated, coordinated and interdependent global repository of intellectual resources for users worldwide. It would work to leverage existing investments in human, financial, technological and information resources in the UN system of library services and to blend traditional library functions with advanced technologies. Through coordinated management, it was expected that economies and efficiencies would be achieved and services optimized to strengthen UN outreach.

The Committee met on 20 March, 16-18 June and 25 September. It adopted a work plan focused on bibliographic control of UN documents; collaborative reference services; collections/resource-sharing; hardware, software and web content; public relations; and small and field libraries.

UN information centres

The United Nations information centres (UNICs), services and offices continued to provide a local voice to the global messages of the United Nations on priority themes. With the adoption of the new operating model for DPI and the resulting integration of the Information Centres Service into the new Strategic Communications Division (see p. 630), the network of DPI’s field communications outposts became an integral part of the planning and implementation of strategic outreach on priority issues. As a follow-up to an OIOS review of the structure and operations of UNICs (see p. 636), all centres, services and offices were asked to develop, with guidance and coordination from Headquarters, annual work plans for 2003 and to implement them in cooperation with local partners, including Governments, local authorities, the media, educational institutions, NGOs and the private sector. UNICs
often took the lead in coordinating the strategic communications initiatives of the UN country team, thereby promoting a unified image of the United Nations at the local level. Such initiatives included activities aimed at promoting the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 51], issues before the World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] and the International Year of Freshwater (2003) (see p. 1033). In developing countries, UNICs assisted individual members of the country team in promoting their special observances, providing public information support for visits by their senior officials and organizing the local launch of their flagship reports, in addition to their regular tasks. The centres relied increasingly on modern communications technology to strengthen their outreach. DPI continued to provide training and technical assistance to UNICs to enable them to establish their own presence on the Internet. The centres continued to train local media professionals in the use of UN information resources on the Internet and extended the programme to include NGOs, educators and students, among others.

OIOS report. In March, the Secretary-General transmitted a report to the General Assembly on the OIOS review of the structure and operations of UNICs [A/57/747 & Corr.1]. The audit, conducted at the DPI offices in New York and at UNICs in Bogotá, Colombia; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Mexico City; Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; and Rome, Italy, assessed the adequacy and cost-effectiveness of the services provided by UNICs in implementation of DPI’s legislative mandates, taking into consideration evolving global and regional information needs, and examined whether the resources were rationally and equitably allocated, efficiently used and accounted for properly. Although the tools and data needed to measure performance were inadequate in some instances, OIOS was able to develop sufficient evidence to conclude that an overall public information strategy needed to be formulated and coordinated. The audit showed that DPI needed to re-examine the broad mandates, goals and strategies of the operation to take account of regional information needs and changing regional and global circumstances, and to reassess urgently the UNIC concept in terms of impact, usefulness and continued relevance with regard to operational effectiveness and resource allocations. The review found that logistical and financial constraints prevented some centres from achieving adequate coverage throughout a country or region. Moreover, overlap and duplication hindered closer cooperation with other UN entities in a country or region, and there was no policy for UNICs to charge for services provided to those entities.

The absence of a requirement for UNICs to submit annual plans to DPI for review and approval was a serious shortcoming, which, in some cases, resulted in the ad hoc coverage of mandates and an imbalance in programme activities. The monthly report providing statistics on UNIC activities, the major tool for evaluating performance and impact, was submitted by only one third of the centres on a regular basis at the time of the audit. The criteria used for assessing UNIC performance were also insufficient.

Other findings of the audit related to filling posts allocated to the Information Centres Service; rent and rent-related expenses of UNIC premises; equitable resource allocation to individual UNICs; the relevance of UNIC reference libraries; and the role of National Information Officers. Additional findings and recommendations were detailed in an internal audit report submitted to DPI.

OIOS recommended that DPI undertake an in-depth evaluation of the implementation of the UNIC operation mandate, update relevant goals, objectives and strategies, and apply proper measures to achieve them, taking into account regional information needs and changing regional and global circumstances. In implementing the updated goals, objectives and strategies, DPI should identify and secure adequate resources, including travel funds, and assess opportunities for reducing duplication of activities between UNICs and other UN entities in a country or region. OIOS also recommended that DPI assess the nature and extent of services provided by UNICs to other UN entities and develop a policy and issue guidelines for charging for services rendered to and for sharing costs with such entities; require all UNICs to prepare and submit for review and approval an annual plan of activities for the forthcoming year and review each plan to ensure adequate mandate coverage and cost-effectiveness; and submit to the General Assembly, through the Secretary-General, a proposal requesting that the continued operation of UNICs and the establishment of new centres be conditional on the concerned Member States providing rent-free premises or a subsidy for rent and maintenance costs. Other recommendations dealt with monitoring UNIC activities; reviewing UNIC reporting requirements; establishing performance criteria for assessing UNIC activities; formulating a programme of Information Officer visits to UNICs; establishing criteria for allocating funds and posts to UNICs and for determining the staffing level of the head of centre; determining the optimum staffing levels of each
UNIC; monitoring UNIC library visitor numbers; and establishing an additional grade level for the National Information Officer position.

The Secretary-General, in his transmittal note, said that he concurred with the thrust of the recommendations, which would streamline and revitalize the operation of UNICs and optimize the benefit of UN financial and human resource investment in that activity. He was pleased to note that DPI was already taking steps to address the issues highlighted in the report through the implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

Regionalization of UN information centres

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/300 [YUN 2002, p. 1355], the Secretary-General, in his report on questions related to information [A/58/175], described the implementation of his 2002 proposal for the rationalization of the network of UNICs around regional hubs, beginning with the creation of a Western European hub [YUN 2002, p. 585].

On 14 January, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information met with the EU Presidency to discuss the implementation of that proposal. The Under-Secretary-General also held consultations with EU member States as a group on 8 April in New York and on 9 July with the group of the Council on the United Nations in Brussels; bilateral discussions were also held with concerned UN Member States. On 10 June, the Secretary-General decided to proceed with the implementation phase of the plan for Western Europe, which would entail the closure by 31 December of the nine centres located in Athens, Greece; Bonn, Germany; Brussels; Copenhagen, Denmark; Lisbon, Portugal; London; Madrid, Spain; Paris and Rome, and the establishment of a regional UNIC on 1 January 2004. He, in principle, accepted Belgium’s offer to locate the regional hub in rent-free premises in Brussels, subject to the conclusion of a satisfactory agreement between Belgium and the Secretariat.

The Western European hub would articulate its information programmes in the 15 EU member States around a common list of UN priorities, which would be conveyed strategically through key intermediaries for maximum impact. That approach would lend coherence to UN messages in the region and contribute to influencing European public opinion in support of the United Nations. Resources released would be redistributed to UN information activities in developing countries and to other high-priority activities, including advancing multilingualism on the UN web site and evaluating the impact of DPI’s major products and services. DPI was developing an action plan to ensure a seamless transition from country-based UNICs to the new regional model and the smooth transfer of the accrued experience, country-specific knowledge, institutional memory, and existing partnerships and contacts to the hub. The Department would develop a strong triangular relationship between the hub and the UN Information Services in Geneva and Vienna, which would continue to serve Switzerland and Austria, respectively, to strengthen DPI’s overall information capacity in Western Europe. In particular, advantage would be taken of the large accredited press corps at the UN Office at Geneva and the proximity of the UN Office in Vienna to some acceding EU States.

The Secretary-General proposed consulting with concerned Member States on further regionalization, using criteria provided in his report on the reorientation of UN activities in the field of public information and communications [A/AC.298/2003/2] and the views of the members of the Committee on Information to guide the application of the “hub” approach in other regions, taking into account the special circumstances prevailing in developing countries. The Secretary-General would submit to the Committee in 2004 a further progress report on the implementation of the regionalization proposal and the possible establishment of other regional UNICs.

Development of UN web site

In response to General Assembly decision 57/379 [YUN 2002, p. 589], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on progress in the implementation of his 2002 proposal [ibid., p. 588] for strengthening DPI within the existing capacity to support and enhance the UN web site in all official languages [A/58/217]. He said that, as the UN web site continued to grow in popularity, it had become a very cost-effective medium for the worldwide dissemination of information on UN activities at a continually decreasing cost per unit, and the number of developing country users had increased due to improved connectivity to the site. The recent linkage of ODRS for parliamentary documentation to the web site was an important step towards the goal of parity among the official languages on the site and had significantly boosted the number of documents available in each language. DPI was implementing other innovative approaches towards achieving multilingualism within existing resources. The Committee on Information, at its twenty-fifth (2003) session [A/58/21], endorsed the Secretary-General’s proposal to redeploy some of the resources freed up by consolidating UNICs in Eu-
rrote into a regional hub (see above), to enhance, among other areas, the language capacity of the Website Section. The possibility of redeploying some resources to other UNICs working in the respective languages to carry out portions of the work on the multilingual web site, such as translations, routine updating and maintenance, had been examined. DPI intended to test the viability of the concept in a pilot exercise at one duty station, depending on the availability of resources, and, if successful, would consider expanding it to others.

Another key component for strengthening language parity on the web site was the expansion of the United Nations News Centre, currently available in Arabic, English, French and Russian, into all official languages by mid-September. DPI was using the worldwide academic community to expand its language capacity through agreements with universities to provide translation of material in a particular language at no cost to the United Nations. It was also encouraging and assisting other Secretariat departments to increase the availability of their materials in all official languages. A number of departments had requested increased provisions in their 2004-2005 budget to help meet that goal. A thorough analysis of the web site would be conducted with the assistance of pro bono services, with the aim of formulating realistic proposals for redesigning, restructuring and refocusing the web site, including the multilingual aspects, together with the necessary hardware and connectivity requirements and the time frame for implementation.

The re-engineered ODS, using the Lotus Notes multilingual capability, could be accessed from the UN web site and was incorporated into other specialized UN system web sites. Those improvements were mandatory prerequisites for making ODS freely available. However, changing from the current subscription-based service to free access would result in a significant increase in the number of users, a load that the current ODS infrastructure would not be able to handle; it would have to be upgraded. Resources for the required upgrading had been requested in the 2004-2005 biennial budget and, if approved by the General Assembly, would allow implementation of free ODS access in late 2004.

Enhancing the UN web site in the official UN languages would be carried out in phases. In the first phase, three posts were to be made available to institutionalize the language capacity in the Website Section, so that all official languages had one regular language assistant. In the second phase, in the context of the 2004-2005 budget, seven posts would be redeployed to the Section, thus strengthening the language capacity dedicated to the web site. Identification of resources for implementing the remaining elements of the proposals was ongoing.

The report concluded that the realignment of priorities with regard to the web site, as envisaged in the report of the Secretary-General on the reorientation of UN public information and communications activities [A/58/7/Add.1 & Corr.1], would increase synergies and boost the team approach, thereby reducing compartmentalization to the extent possible, and position the UN Internet capacity to take advantage of evolving technology. The ultimate objective was a technologically sound, continually updated, intuitive and user-friendly web site that was available to users in their choice of language.

ACABQ report. In a September report [A/58/7/Add.1 & Corr.1], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) took note of the Secretary-General’s August report (above). The Committee referred to its comments in its first report on the proposed 2004-2005 programme budget [A/58/7], emphasizing the importance of continued efforts to achieve parity among languages on the web site and supporting the redeployment of resources to that end.

By decision 58/562 of 23 December, the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General’s August report and ACABQ’s related report (above).

In resolution 58/270 of the same date (see p. 1399), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the UN web site through further redeployment to the required language posts and report in 2004.

UN Communications Group

The United Nations Communications Group (UNCG), which replaced the Joint United Nations Information Committee in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 589], at its second annual session (New York, 23-24 June), discussed the role and effectiveness of the United Nations in the light of the crisis in Iraq (see p. 333), and considered options for meaningful and effective public information campaigns at a time of declining credibility for the Organization and growing uncertainty about its future role in that region. The Group identified several elements it considered vital in formulating future public information campaigns and concluded that the United Nations remained the principle multilateral voice. Its communicators should remind the world of the role and responsibility of Member States within the multilateral framework; while UN communicators could not replace Governments making decisions, they could influence the climate in which those deci-
sions were made. They also had to speak in a common language and tell the UN story in the most effective manner; UNCG was a key platform for developing that voice. UNCG agreed that the use of UN field experts, including local and national staff members, in public information campaigns should be encouraged, and local staff should be trained and prepared for media outreach. Launches of major UN reports should be used as opportunities for engaging the media in the issues involved. Statistical information, such as that offered in periodic reports on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51], should be used to tell the UN story, and use of the Internet as a communications tool within and outside the UN system should be maximized.

In order to involve the UN information services in the overall MDG campaign, UNCG decided to set up a task force, led by DPI, focusing on communications strategies and their implementation. The Group endorsed guidelines for designating UN Goodwill Ambassadors and agreed to recognize and make better use of local celebrities in promoting UN issues. It created a task force, headed by UNDP, to explore ways of involving international pollsters and mobilizing resources for using global opinion surveys as communication tools. The Group recommended that members enhance their financial support for the Non-Governmental Liaison Service and requested the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to strengthen the Service’s financial standing.

Information and communications in the context of international security

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/53 [YUN 2002, p. 397], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/58/575], transmitted the views of seven Member States on the general appreciation of the issues of information security; the definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunication systems and information resources; and the context of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunication systems.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/477], adopted resolution 58/32 without vote [agenda item 68].

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,


Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of humankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that it made,

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing its concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Noting the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 55/70, 54/49, 55/28, 56/19 and 57/53,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening an international meeting of experts in Geneva in August 1999 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as its results,

Considering that the assessments of the Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meeting of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,
Confirming the request to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 4 of its resolutions 56/19 and 57/58,
1. Calls upon Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible measures to limit the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;
2. Considers that the purpose of such measures could be served through the examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;
3. Invites all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:
   (a) General appreciation of the issues of information security;
   (b) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;
   (c) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to consider existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, and to conduct a study on the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to be established in 2004, appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and with the help of Member States in a position to render such assistance, and to submit a report on the outcome of the study to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.

Cybersecurity and protection of information infrastructures

In resolution 58/199 of 23 December (see p. 861), the General Assembly took note of elements for protecting critical information infrastructures, which were set out in an annex to the resolution.

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/458], adopted resolution 58/33 by recorded vote (106–49–19) [agenda item 69].

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Concerned that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of advanced weapons systems and, in particular, weapons of mass destruction,

Aware of the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that international transfers of dual-use as well as high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Also cognizant of the need to regulate such transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications through multilaterally negotiated, universally applicable, non-discriminatory guidelines,

Expressing its concern about the growing proliferation of ad hoc and exclusive export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies, which tend to impede the economic and social development of developing countries,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 25 February 2003, it was again noted with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persisted,

Emphasizing that internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defense requirements of all States and the requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

1. Affirms that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;
2. Invites Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;
3. Urges Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications;
4. Encourages United Nations bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”.

YUN03—4th proofs
May 12 2005
RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/33:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, South Africa, Tonga, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu.

Peaceful uses of outer space

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Committee on Outer Space), at its forty-sixth session (Vienna, 11-20 June) [A/58/20], discussed ways and means to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes, the spin-off benefits of space technology, and space and society. It examined the implementation of the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) [YUN 1999, p. 556], and reviewed the work of its two subcommittees, one dealing with scientific and technical issues and the other with legal questions.

Implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/116 [YUN 2002, p. 602], the Committee on Outer Space reconvened the working group established in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 598] to prepare a report to enable the Assembly, in accordance with its resolution 54/68 [YUN 1999, p. 557], to review and appraise, in 2004, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and to consider further action and initiatives.

The working group had before it a compilation of input [A/AC.105/L.247] from the action teams established by the Committee in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 568] (see below). It noted the progress made by the teams and agreed that they should submit updates or revised input on further progress made. It agreed on criteria for selecting recommendations for inclusion in the report to the Assembly.

The working group also considered a compilation of contributions from UN system entities, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs having permanent observer status with the Committee on Outer Space and space-related regional entities that had been invited to provide input for the report to the Assembly. It noted that some action teams had taken into account relevant input from those organizations in developing recommendations, and encouraged interaction between the action teams and those organizations with initiatives, programmes or projects that could benefit their work. A December Secretariat note [A/AC.105/899] contained information on the activities of four international organizations that had contributed to the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.

The working group finalized an indicative, preliminary draft outline of the report to the Assembly and agreed to hold informal consultations during the 2004 sessions of the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees to advance the preparation of the draft report. It recommended that the Committee on Outer Space, at its forty-seventh (2004) session, reconvene the working group and allocate sufficient time for it to finalize the report for endorsement by the Committee.

In accordance with resolution 57/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fortieth session (see p. 642), reconvened its Working Group of the Whole to consider, among other issues, the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations, including the progress of the action teams. Before the Working Group was an updated report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations in tabular form [A/AC.105/C.1/L.202], as recommended by the Subcommittee in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 599]. The Working Group established an action team on improving knowledge-sharing through the promotion of universal access to space-based communication services. Based on a template circulated to the action teams by the Working Group for the submission of reports and recommendations, input from the 11 action teams was annexed to a May Secretariat note [A/AC.105/L.247]. The Working Group agreed that the results of the 2000 Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 47], the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] and the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005 (see p. 857) should be taken into account in the preparation of the report to the Assembly and that the recommendations or actions resulting from those...
conferences should be correlated with specific UNISPACE III recommendations. Appended to the Subcommittee’s report were guidelines circulated to UN entities, organizations with observer status with the Committee on Outer Space and regional entities on inputs from them that would best assist the Committee’s working group in preparing its report. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that inputs to be provided in accordance with the guidelines should be submitted by the beginning of May.

The Committee on Outer Space, at its June session, endorsed the recommendations of its Working Group. It noted that all action teams had reported on their work, including the submission of the final reports of the Action Team on Sustainable Development [A/AC.105/C.1/L.244] to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and of the Action Team on New and Innovative Sources of Funding [A/AC.105/L.246] to the Committee. During the year, final reports were also submitted by the Action Teams on Weather and Climate Forecasting [A/AC.105/C.1/L.269], on Disaster Management [A/AC.105/C.1/L.275] and on Global Navigation Satellite Systems [A/AC.105/C.1/L.274]. The Committee noted that the low level of feedback and participation by some action team members could be related to the lack of capacity and institutionalized mechanisms and a shortage of resources and expertise in gathering information and data exchange among national institutions. Some action teams had divided tasks and responsibilities among members based on their capacities and capabilities; that method of work had proved to be beneficial and could be followed by some action teams.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/116 [YUN 2002, p. 602], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/58/74] on action taken by the Committee on Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies to implement the UNISPACE III recommendations, implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and action taken to further enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/471], adopted resolution 58/90 without vote [agenda item 82].

Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly

Recalling its resolutions 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 55/122 of 8 December 2000, 56/51 of 10 December 2001 and 57/116 of 11 December 2002, concerning the review and appraisal by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999,

Taking note with satisfaction of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the action teams established by the Committee at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions under the voluntary leadership of Member States, to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III,

Noting the progress made by the Committee through its Working Group in preparing a report for submission to the General Assembly for the review, in accordance with paragraph 31 of Assembly resolution 55/122,

1. Decides to conduct the review of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) in plenary meeting(s) at its fifty-ninth session, under a separate agenda item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space";

2. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit its report on the review of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session in plenary meeting(s);

3. Decides that the plenary meeting(s) for the review shall be held in October 2004;

4. Invites Member States to participate in the plenary meeting(s) at the ministerial level or at the highest level possible.

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on Outer Space, at its forty-fifth session (Vienna, 17-28 February) [A/AC.105/804], considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations. It also dealt with matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth’s environment; the use of nuclear power sources in outer space; mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among UN system entities; implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system; space debris; the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications; the mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications; and the use of space
technology for the medical sciences and public health.

**UN Programme on Space Applications**

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 37/90 [YUN 1982, p. 163], continued to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish or strengthen their capacity in space science and technology through long-term training fellowships, technical advisory services, regional and international training courses and conferences, and to promote cooperation between developed and developing countries.

The United Nations Expert on Space Applications [A/AC.105/815] stated that Programme efforts to develop indigenous capability continued to focus on the establishment and operation of regional centres for space science and technology education in developing countries. Under the Programme’s priority area of space technology and disaster management, which aimed at supporting developing countries to use space technology to deal with disasters successfully, a European regional workshop was held in Romania. The Programme was implementing the natural resource management and environmental monitoring priority theme to support developing countries in incorporating space-based solutions for solving environmental monitoring and natural resource management issues, focusing on workshops and expert meetings to define regional plans of action and pilot projects. The Programme also promoted the use of enabling technologies, including global navigation satellite systems for social and economic benefits, and the use of space science and technology and their applications to support sustainable development. The Office for Outer Space Affairs was accepted as a cooperating body to the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, enabling the UN system to have access to the Charter as an authorized user. Beginning on 1 July, the Office set up a permanent hotline through which UN agencies could request data through the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and disaster management, which aimed at supporting developing countries to use space technology to deal with disasters successfully, a European regional workshop was held in Romania. The Programme was implementing the natural resource management and environmental monitoring priority theme to support developing countries in incorporating space-based solutions for solving environmental monitoring and natural resource management issues, focusing on workshops and expert meetings to define regional plans of action and pilot projects. The Programme also promoted the use of enabling technologies, including global navigation satellite systems for social and economic benefits, and the use of space science and technology and their applications to support sustainable development. The Office for Outer Space Affairs was accepted as a cooperating body to the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, enabling the UN system to have access to the Charter as an authorized user. Beginning on 1 July, the Office set up a permanent hotline through which UN agencies could request data through the International Charter to respond to emergency situations.

The Programme held 13 workshops, training courses and conferences in 2003; the European Space Agency continued to support the long-term fellowship programme for in-depth training. Various technical advisory services for activities promoting regional cooperation continued to be provided.

Following its consideration of the January 2003 report of the Expert on Space Applications [A/AC.105/790 & Corr.1], which described activities in 2002, those scheduled for 2003 and those planned for 2004, the Subcommittee continued to express concern over the Programme’s limited financial resources and appealed to Member States for voluntary contributions. It noted that, while some progress had been made in bringing the benefits of the use of space applications for sustainable economic and social development and for the protection of the environment to the awareness of high-level decision makers, more needed to be done.

The General Assembly, in resolution 58/89 (see p. 646), endorsed the Programme on Space Applications for 2004, as proposed by the Expert.

**Cooperation**

The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, at its twenty-third session (Vienna, 22-24 January) [A/AC.105/791 & Corr.1], discussed the coordination of plans and programmes in the practical application of space technology and related areas and the space-related outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]. It also reviewed electronic information networking in the UN system and the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.

The Meeting noted that the UN-affiliated regional centres for space science and technology education complemented training programmes offered by other UN entities and should be supported, and that participating entities were making efforts to ensure that contributions of space technology would be considered at the World Summit on the Information Society (see p. 857). It considered a proposal for sharing space-related educational activities or events among UN entities, through participation in or co-sponsoring events organized by other agencies. It agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should request focal points of UN entities for the Inter-Agency Meeting to provide information on their education activities or events for posting on its web site.

The Meeting agreed to hold, in conjunction with its annual session, an open informal session, and that its agenda should focus on a particular topic or topics to be chosen in advance. Noting the desire of participating UN entities to keep the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee informed about their ongoing space activities, the Meeting agreed to invite the Subcommittee to consider requesting annual reports from UN entities on specific themes. It approved a revised version of the Secretary-General’s report on the coordination of outer space activities within the UN system: programme of work for 2003 and 2004 and future years [A/AC.105/792], and adopted
a revised structure for the preparation of the 2004-2005 report, which was annexed to its report.

The Meeting noted that recommendations in the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development made specific reference to space technologies, and it invited participants to report on the status of their organizations’ plans for Summit follow-up. The Meeting considered a preliminary list of actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation with direct or potential relevance to space science and technology and their applications and actions to address cross-cutting issues, and agreed that UN entities should complete the list with their planned space-related initiatives and programmes in response to the recommendations.

Members of the Committee on Outer Space should also consider completing the list, which could serve as a comprehensive survey of the space community’s response to the Summit’s outcomes. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should circulate the list electronically to the focal points of UN system entities, which would be reviewed in 2004 to ensure the harmonized and balanced presentation of all relevant initiatives and programmes within the UN system.

Regarding the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations, the Meeting noted the significant progress achieved by the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS)-Partnership in implementing IGOS by, among other actions, preparing reports on selected IGOS themes and implementing recommendations contained in those reports. It agreed that UN entities should be provided with further guidelines on inputs from them that would best assist the working group of the Committee on Outer Space in preparing its 2004 report to the General Assembly on UNISPACE III implementation and noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would work with the chairman to develop such guidelines (see p. 641).

Scientific and technical issues

In 2003, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee [A/AC.105/804] continued to emphasize the importance of the provision of non-discriminatory access to state-of-the-art remote sensing data and to derived information at reasonable cost and in a timely manner; capacity-building, in particular to meet the needs of developing countries; and remote sensing systems to support key development activities. It also emphasized that international cooperation in the use of remote sensing satellites should be encouraged and actively promoted. It noted that all new achievements in Earth observation contributing to sustainable development, including agriculture, health and human security, should be applied in the interests of all States, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

The Subcommittee adopted the 2003-2006 multi-year work plan on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, which was annexed to the Subcommittee’s report. In accordance with resolution 57/116 [YUN 2002, p. 602], it reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, endorsed the Working Group’s report, which was annexed to the Subcommittee’s report, and agreed that the Working Group should be requested to continue its work until 2004. It endorsed the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to hold an open informal session in conjunction with the annual Meeting, and invited UN entities to submit annual reports to the Subcommittee on specific themes. The Subcommittee also invited member States of the Committee on Outer Space to complete the preliminary draft list of actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] with direct or potential relevance to space science and technology.

The Subcommittee reviewed possible global operational structures to handle natural disaster management, making maximum use of existing and planned space systems. It noted that achieving a global management infrastructure for natural disasters would require the use of a “system engineering” approach, which could tie existing satellite missions to various scientific models of natural phenomena and to support systems to enhance decision-making during natural disasters. It also noted that several objectives foreseen in its work plan on the implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system for 2001 and 2002, including the examination of existing satellite and data distribution systems, had been addressed by a number of States.

In accordance with its multi-year work plan on space debris [YUN 2001, p. 570], the Subcommittee began its review of the proposals on space debris mitigation presented by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), including means of endorsing their utilization. It requested member States of the Committee on Outer Space to study the proposals and provide their comments to the Office for Outer Space Affairs before the Subcommittee’s 2004 session. The Subcommittee agreed that member States should pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources on board, with space debris and to other aspects of space debris; member
States and international organizations should make available the results of national research on space debris, including information on minimizing its creation.

The Committee on Outer Space [A/58/20] agreed that it was important that States making use of nuclear power sources conducted their activities in full accordance with the 1992 Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space [YUN 1992, p. 116].

The Committee endorsed the proposals of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in the use of outer space within the UN system (see p. 643).

The Committee stressed the importance of operational access to global satellite databases for dealing with natural disasters, especially in developing countries, and the need to identify and close gaps in the coverage of remote sensing satellites so that reliable information could be provided to all disaster-affected areas. It requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to convene a one-day workshop for industry during its forty-seventh (2004) session, inviting all major communications satellite operators to present their systems’ capabilities and views on how they could be used during natural disasters.

The Committee requested its members to study the IADC proposals on space debris mitigation (see above) and to provide their comments to the Office for Outer Space Affairs before the Subcommittee’s 2004 session. A Secretariat note [A/AC.105/920] contained replies received from three member States.

In response to the Subcommittee’s request that Member States and regional space agencies report on national research concerning the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources, the Secretariat submitted replies received from 11 States and one agency on the subject [A/AC.105/789/Add.1 & A/AC.105/817].

Other related documents submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee were two Secretariat notes [A/AC.105/788 & A/AC.105/816] containing information received from 24 Member States on their space activities.

**Legal Subcommittee**

The Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-second session (Vienna, 24 March–4 April) [A/AC.105/805], established, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/116 [YUN 2002, p. 602], a working group to examine the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, which was opened for signature in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 570]. The working group also considered the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the preliminary draft protocol and the relationship between the terms of the draft protocol and the rights and obligations under the legal regime applicable to outer space. Before it was a Secretariat report on the subject [A/AC.105/C.2/L.238]. The working group noted that, under article 17 of the preliminary draft protocol, supervisory authority would be designated at a diplomatic conference to adopt a space assets protocol to the Convention, and that the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law had approached the United Nations as a possible supervisory authority. It also noted that the General Assembly would decide on whether the United Nations would assume those functions. In that event, the working group recommended that no funds should be used from the UN regular budget for that purpose and all costs incurred would be recovered by start-up funding and user fees.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 57/116, the Subcommittee reconvened its working group established in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 601] on the status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space. The treaties in question were: the 1966 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 2222(XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 41]; the 1967 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, adopted in resolution 2345(XXII) [YUN 1967, p. 33]; the 1971 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, contained in resolution 2777(XXVI) [YUN 1971, p. 32]; the 1974 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, contained in resolution 3235(XXIX) [YUN 1974, p. 63]; and the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, contained in resolution 34/68 [YUN 1979, p. 111]. The working group suggested that the Secretary-General write letters to ministers for foreign affairs of States that had not become parties to the UN treaties on outer space and international organizations that had not declared their acceptance of those treaties, which should include a list of those treaties, a table on the status of their implementation, and information summarizing the benefits and responsibilities of participation, in particular for non-space-faring and developing countries. A model for such a letter and accompanying information material would be developed by the working group in 2004. Efforts by the Subcommittee to increase the level of participation in those treaties could include initiatives such as...
regional and global meetings to raise public awareness about them.

The working group had before it three proposals on matters relating to its mandate that had been informally announced: a proposal by the United States for a new agenda item on registration practice; a proposal by France for a new agenda item on space debris; and a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly on the legal concept of the “launching State”, contained in a working paper [A/AC.105/C.2/L.242 & Add.1] submitted by the Legal Subcommittee. The working group recommended that the merits and substance of that draft resolution be further considered by the Committee on Outer Space at its 2003 session.

The working group agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should compile a directory of institutions teaching space law. It recommended that those institutions participate in an electronic network of institutions teaching international and national space law, and the UN-affiliated regional centres for space science and technology education should include a basic course in space law in their curricula.

The Subcommittee re-established its working group on the definition and delimitation of outer space, which agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare for consideration at its 2004 session an analytical summary of the replies received from Member States to the questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects, with a view to taking a decision on the need to continue consideration of the questionnaire. Delegations were urged to respond by 31 August to ensure that their replies were included in the summary.

The Committee on Outer Space, at its forty-sixth session [A/58/20], agreed that the treaties on outer space had established a framework that had encouraged the exploration of outer space benefiting both space-faring and non-space-faring States and the Legal Subcommittee should undertake activities that supported the continued vitality of that legal framework. The Committee also agreed that the Subcommittee should consider at its 2004 session the revised text [A/AC.105/L.249] of the draft resolution on the application of the legal concept of the “launching State”, and that the UN-affiliated regional centres for space science and technology education should include a basic course on space law in their curricula. It agreed to transmit the report of the Group of Experts on the Ethics of Outer Space [A/AC.105/C.2/L.240/Rec.1] to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the request that UNESCO keep the Committee and its subcommittees informed about UNESCO’s outer space activities.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/471], adopted resolution 58/89 without vote [agenda item 82].

**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space**

The General Assembly,

**Recalling** its resolutions 31/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999 and 57/116 of 11 December 2002,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing to ensure that all States benefit derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in this field,

Convincing of the importance of the recommendations in the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999, and the need to promote the use of space technology towards implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III,

Convincing that the use of space science and technology and their applications, in such areas as telemedicine, tele-education and Earth observation, contribute to achieving the objectives of the global con-
ferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, inter alia, poverty eradication,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-sixth session,
1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-sixth session;

2. Urges States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties as well as incorporating them in their national legislation;

3. Notes that, at its forty-second session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/116;

4. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, in close liaison with the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific and Cultural Organization might need to be studied by the Committee and to draft a report, in consultation with other international organizations and in close liaison with the World Commission, presented its report to the Legal Subcommittee, and agrees that the report should be transmitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the request that it keep the Committee and its subsidiaries informed about its activities relating to outer space;

5. Notes that the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, will submit its proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2005;

6. Notes also that, in the context of paragraph 4 (a) (ii) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its Working Group with the terms of reference as agreed upon by the Legal Subcommittee, to meet for three years, from 2002 to 2004;

7. Notes further that, in the context of paragraph 4 (a) (iii) above, the Group of Experts on the Ethics of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, invited by the Committee at its forty-fourth session to identify which aspects of the report of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization might need to be studied by the Committee and to draft a report, in consultation with other international organizations and in close liaison with the World Commission, presented its report to the Legal Subcommittee, and agrees that the report should be transmitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the request that it keep the Committee and its subsidiaries informed about its activities relating to outer space;

8. Notes that, in the context of paragraph 4 (a) (iv) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its Working Group on the item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space;

9. Agrees that the Legal Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group to consider the questions reflected in paragraphs 4 (b) (ii) a. and b. above separately;

10. Notes with satisfaction that, in accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Government of Austria continued to convene and facilitate intersessional informal consultations on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the third term, and that consensus agreement was reached, before the forty-sixth session of the Committee, on the extension of the term of office of the current bureau of the Committee and the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

11. Endorses the agreement reached by the Committee on the extension of the term of office of the current bureau of the Committee and future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, and notes that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Committee conducted the election of its officers at its forty-sixth session;

12. Agrees that the Committee and its subsidiaries, at the beginning of their sessions in 2004, should conduct the election of the officers agreed upon by the Committee at its forty-sixth session;

13. Also agrees that, in accordance with the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies indicated in paragraph 11 above, the Committee at its forty-seventh session, in 2004, should reach agreement on all the officers of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidi-
iary bodies for the next term and that, for this purpose, the Committee should include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session an item on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007.

14. Urges each of the five regional groups to ensure that agreement within the group on the officer to be determined for the period 2006-2007 is reached before the forty-seventh session of the Committee;

15. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/116;

16. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-first session, take into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:
(a) Consider the following items:
(i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications;
(ii) Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;
(iii) Matters relating to remote-sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth’s environment;
(b) Consider the following items in accordance with the work plans adopted by the Committee:
(i) Space debris;
(ii) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;
(iii) Space-system-based telemedicine;
(c) Consider the following single issues/items for discussion:
(i) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;
(ii) Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system;
(iii) Solar-terrestrial physics;
17. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-first session will submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Subcommittee, in 2005;
18. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee that the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry should be organized during the first week of the forty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and should address small satellite applications in agriculture, health and human security;
19. Agrees that, in the context of paragraphs 16 (a) (ii) and (i) and 17 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-first session, could establish a working group to consider comments from member States of the Committee on the proposals on debris mitigation presented by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee to the Subcommittee at its fortieth session;
20. Further agrees that, in the context of paragraph 16 (b) (ii) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-first session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;
22. Endorses the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2004, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;
23. Notes with satisfaction that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the African regional centres for space science and technology education will continue their education programmes in 2003, that the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean became affiliated to the United Nations and began its education programme, and that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications is providing technical support to the Government of Jordan for the establishment of the regional centre for space science and technology education for Western Asia;
24. Also notes with satisfaction the success of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 14 to 17 May 2002, which adopted the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action, and notes the desire of Member States in the Latin American and Caribbean region to institutionalize the Space Conference of the Americas;
25. Welcomes the memorandum of understanding between the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, under which the parties demonstrated their intention to collaborate in promoting and implementing joint activities, and invites the Pro Tempore Secretariat to inform the Committee of the work accomplished;
26. Urges all Governments, entities of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and nongovernmental entities conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular its resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, bearing in mind the need to promote the use of space technology towards implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration;
27. Agrees that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, the Committee should include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session an item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;
28. Notes with satisfaction the work conducted by the twelve action teams that the Committee had established at its forty-fourth and forty-sixth sessions under the voluntary leadership of Member States to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III, and urges Member States to provide full support to the action teams in conducting their work;
29. Also notes with satisfaction that the Committee made further progress in the preparation of its report under the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III for submission to the General Assembly, in order for the Assembly to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, in accordance with paragraph 16 of its resolution 54/68, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives, and agrees that, in this context, the Working Group established by the Committee to prepare the above-mentioned report should be reconvened at the forty-seventh session of the Committee to complete its work;

30. Notes that in order to advance the preparation of the report of the Committee, mentioned in paragraph 29 above, the Working Group of the Committee could hold informal consultations during the forty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as well as the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee;

31. Urges all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to support activities to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular the priority project proposals as recommended by the Committee at its forty-third session;

32. Recommends that more attention be paid and political support be provided to all matters relating to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

33. Considers that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the conclusion of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

34. Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

35. Emphasizes the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in the developing countries;

36. Notes that space science and technology and their applications could make important contributions to economic, social and cultural development and welfare as indicated in the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, and notes also that the International Fair on Air and Space to be held at Santiago de Chile early in 2004 will address in an international conference the question “Space and water: towards sustainable development and human security”;

37. Agrees that the benefits of space technology and its applications should be prominently brought to the attention of conferences organized within the United Nations system to address global issues relating to social, economic and cultural development and that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

38. Notes with satisfaction the increased efforts of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as well as the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to promote the use of space science and technology and their applications in carrying out actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”);

39. Urges entities of the United Nations system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to examine, in cooperation with the Committee, how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, particularly in the areas relating to, inter alia, food security and increasing opportunities for education;

40. Invites the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to continue to contribute to the work of the Committee and to report to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work conducted at its annual session;

41. Requests the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, and agrees that during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations emerging from the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

42. Agrees that the Committee should continue to consider a report on the activities of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue as a part of its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications under the agenda item entitled “Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, and invites Member States to report on their activities regarding the System;

43. Notes that in connection with the consideration of the implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system, under the agenda item entitled “Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, during the forty-seventh session of the Committee, a one-day workshop for industry would be organized with the participation of Member States and communications satellite operators to discuss how satellite-based communications could be used during natural disasters;

44. Requests the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-seventh session, its agenda item entitled...
“Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status”;

45. Also requests the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-seventh session, its agenda item entitled “Space and society”, and agrees that a special theme for the focus of discussions for the period 2004-2006 should be “Space and education”, in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee;

46. Agrees that a new item entitled “Space and water” should be included in the agenda of the Committee at its forty-seventh session, and urges entities of the United Nations system and invites other intergovernmental entities dealing with issues relating to the use and management of water resources as well as space agencies to contribute to the work of the Committee in this field;

47. Welcomes the continued interest of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in becoming a member of the Committee, and, to this end, requests that constructive consultations be conducted as soon as possible within the Committee as well as among regional groups, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with a view to reaching a positive and final decision on the membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

48. Requests the Committee to consider ways to improve participation by member States and entities with observer status in its work, with a view to agreeing on specific recommendations in that regard at its forty-eighth session;

49. Endorses the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis;

50. Invites the Committee to expand the scope of international cooperation relating to the social, economic, ethical and human dimension in space science and technology applications;

5. Requests entities of the United Nations system and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, to enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with reports on the issues dealt with in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

52. Requests the Committee to consider and identify new mechanisms of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space to strengthen multilateralism, in accordance with the preamble to the present resolution, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

**Effects of atomic radiation**

At its fifty-first session (Vienna, 27-31 January) [A/58/46], the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation advanced the programme of work established in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 571]. It considered new information relevant to assessing sources of radiation, exposures from those sources and the resulting effects. The Committee reviewed Secretariat documents on exposures of workers and the public to various sources of radiation; sources-to-effects assessment for radon in homes and workplaces; radiocology; epigenetic effects of exposure to ionizing radiation; health effects due to radiation from the 1986 Chernobyl accident [YUN 1986, p. 584], for which the Committee had established official collaboration with scientists in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine; evaluation of new epidemiological studies of radiation and cancer; epidemiological evaluation and dose response of diseases other than cancer that might be related to radiation exposure; medical radiation exposures; the health effects of radiation; and the sources of ionizing radiation exposure.

The Committee’s fifty-first session, which had been rescheduled from 2002 due to a budget shortfall [YUN 2002, p. 606], was made possible by combining non-post funds for both years of the 2002-2003 biennium. The report stated that the programme initiated at the session could not survive the loss of another annual meeting, and it was imperative that a solution to the Committee’s budgetary crisis be found. In anticipation that adequate funds for the Committee to hold annual meetings would be restored for the 2004-2005 and subsequent bienniums, in accordance with resolution 57/115 [YUN 2002, p. 606], the Committee decided to hold its fifty-second session in Vienna from 26 to 30 April 2004.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 9 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/58/470], adopted resolution 58/88 without vote [agenda item 81].

**Effects of atomic radiation**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 93(X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 57/115 of 11 December 2002, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Scientific Committee,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-eighth session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,
Noting with satisfaction that some Member States have expressed particular interest in becoming members of the Scientific Committee, and expressing its intention to consider the issue further at its next session,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-eight years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. Reaffirms the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and invites the Scientific Committee to submit its programme of work to the General Assembly;

4. Endorses the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of ionizing radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. Invites the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports;

9. Welcomes, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of ionizing radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

10. Invites Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly;

11. Urges the United Nations Environment Programme to review and strengthen the present funding of the Scientific Committee, pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 57/115, so that the Committee can discharge the responsibilities and mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly;

12. Emphasizes the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report can reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States.