Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, submitted to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly and dated 30 August 2000. The Assembly took note of it on 28 September (decision 55/404). On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item would remain for consideration during the resumed fifty-fifth (2001) session **(decision** 55/458).

Introduction

1. The turn of the millennium provides a unique vantage point from which to view humanity's progress and challenges. In my report to the Millennium Summit, We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the Twenty-first Century, I offered my own assessment, and suggested ways in which the entire international community can work together to better the lives of people still left behind.

2. The past year has reminded us that the international community is not yet close enough to meeting that goal. Since last September, new wars have erupted in several parts of the world, and many long-running conflicts have continued to defy the best efforts of mediators to end them. The devastation caused by natural disasters continued to increase, with drought, floods and earthquakes blighting the lives of millions. Demands on United Nations humanitarian agencies vastly exceeded worst-case predictions.

3. While living standards in much of the developing world continued to improve, in many of the least developed countries they remained in decline. This is particularly so in sub-Saharan Africa, where AIDS, violent conflict, and in some instances predatory behaviour by Governments and political factions have taken a heavy toll, while per capita economic assistance from the richer world has declined dramatically.

4. In Africa, AIDS is now killing at least four times as many people each year as the continent's numerous armed conflicts. In other parts of the world, the pandemic continues to spread with frightening rapidity. The gravity of the threat HIV/AIDS poses is at last being widely recognized, but this provides small comfort. What is needed is a stronger commitment to action.

5. During the year, the creation of three new peace missions resulted in a tripling of the numbers of authorized United Nations peacekeepers to 45,000, straining United Nations Headquarters resources to the very limits. United Nations operations in East Timor and in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, are the most complex, and in some ways the most demanding, in the Organization's history. We are charged with nothing less than helping to rebuild shattered societies almost from scratch.

6. In 1999, in the wake of the war in Kosovo, the question how the international community should respond to gross violations of human rights was fiercely debated. For the Organization this had already been a critical issue for some time, not least because the inability of the international community to help prevent the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 or the massacre of thousands of unarmed men and boys from the United Nations "safe area" of Srebrenica in 1995 continued to weigh on our conscience.

7. Two United Nations reviews were conducted in 1999 to determine what had caused those failures—a Secretariat study on Srebrenica and an Independent Inquiry study of Rwanda. Both reviews revealed how lack of political will, inappropriate Security Council mandates and inadequate resources contributed to failure, together with doctrinal and institutional misjudgements and shortcomings on the part of the United Nations itself.

8. While both studies offered valuable recommendations, it was evident that a more comprehensive diagnosis was required of the deep-rooted problems that have plagued so many of our missions, and above all a prescription for avoiding such failures in the future. Therefore,

in March 2000, I established a high-level panel, chaired by Lakhdar Brahimi, to undertake a major review and recommend ways of ensuring that future peace operations will be more effective.

9. The Panel's report has just been issued. It contains a frank and clear-sighted analysis of the problems we continue to face in mounting effective peace operations. The Panel's recommendations for change are realistic and cogently argued. They go to the very heart of the dilemmas that we confront in seeking to meet our commitment, under the Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". I trust that Member States will give them the most serious consideration, and join me in putting them into effect swiftly.

10. No objective observer could doubt that the current level of Secretariat support for peace operations is inadequate. The 12,000 troops currently serving in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, for example, are supported by just five people at Headquarters. No national Government would dream of deploying a comparably sized military mission overseas with such a minimal headquarters support unit.

11. Not surprisingly, therefore, some of the Panel's recommendations will require additional resources to implement. The international community must accept that these are indeed essential if we are to meet our international peace and security commitments. The estimated cost of all United Nations peacekeeping operations in 2000 amounts to less than one half of 1 per cent of the approximately $800 billion that Member States spend on national defence. The additional resources needed to implement the Panel's recommendations are very modest by comparison.

12. Security has not been the only contentious issue during the past year. The protests at the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle indicated a growing potential backlash against globalization. Concern is by no means restricted to street demonstrators in the developed countries; albeit largely for different reasons, it is also evident in the capitals of many developing countries.

13. To some, globalization is imbued with great promise; to others it appears deeply threatening. Few deny that the economic and technological forces that drive it have the potential to lift the dreadful burdens of poverty and disease that still weigh on half the world's population. But in the face of persistent poverty, rising inequality and the volatility of global markets and financial flows many doubt that this potential will be realized. Others are concerned that open markets will threaten both the integrity of cultures and the sovereignty of States.

14. That there should be such disagreements is not surprising. Like other great changes in history, globalization creates losers as well as winners.

15. It is clear that no country has developed successfully by rejecting the opportunities offered by international trade and foreign direct investment. The developing countries that have become most effectively integrated into the global economy, notably those of East Asia, have not only grown faster than the rest, they have also been far more successful in reducing poverty levels. At the same time, engagement with the global economy alone is no panacea for rapid development, and additional measures, domestic as well as international, are necessary to make globalization work for all.

16. I firmly believe that thriving markets and human security go hand in hand. But if support for open markets and financial liberalization is to be sustained, globalization must be made more inclusive and its benefits must be spread more equitably. These goals cannot be achieved without more effective global institutions.

17. Here the international community confronts a major problem. The international economic institutions that were created in the aftermath of the Second World War were designed to manage a much less complex and fast-moving set of issues. Even more importantly, they were designed to manage the flow of international economic transactions. We have however moved into the era of global economic transactions.

18. Economic liberalization has unleashed extraordinary growth but, as the East Asia crisis of 1997-1998 reminded us, it has also reduced the ability of Governments to resist the influence of the global economic environment. There is a need for more effective global governance, by which I mean the cooperative management of global affairs.

19. In some instances, far-reaching institutional changes are called for, but governance does not have to involve formal institutions, regulations or mechanisms of enforcement. It can also be achieved through informal dialogue and cooperation. It can involve agreements with non-State actors as well as between and among Governments.

20. Indeed, during the past decade many informal coalitions have emerged to pursue cooperative solutions to common problems—not only among Governments but also encompassing international institutions, civil society organizations and sometimes the private sector. Such engagement does not threaten Governments. On the contrary, it increases their power by bringing them willing and able allies. All partners can gain

in such coalitions, because each achieves through cooperation what none could achieve alone.

21. Sometimes called "coalitions for change", global policy networks transcend both geographical and political boundaries. They focus attention on specific issues, disseminate knowledge, set global agendas and mobilize people for change. Recent examples can be seen in the campaigns to reduce global warming, roll back malaria, ban landmines, create an international criminal court and provide debt relief for developing countries.

22. The United Nations, with its universality, legitimacy and broad mandates, has unique convening and consensus-building roles to play in such coalitions for change.

23. Much is already being done. In the past year the United Nations has forged global partnerships that would hardly have been conceivable even a decade ago. Last year, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I proposed a Global Compact by which private corporations would commit themselves to observing, in their own corporate domains, good practices, as defined by the broader international community, in the areas of human rights, labour and the environment. In July 2000, in New York, I convened the inaugural meeting of the Compact partners, which was attended by representatives of the international trade union movement and major civil society organizations, as well as the leaders of some 50 multinational companies.

24. The Global Compact is not intended as a substitute for international agreements or effective action by Governments, but as a complement to them. The corporations that have joined it did so because the values that the Compact promotes will help to create the stable and secure environment that business needs if it is to flourish in the long term. Labour and civil society organizations have joined because the values that the Global Compact upholds are also their values, and because they recognize the importance of having corporations support them.

25. We are also working with business, philanthropic foundations and civil society organizations on an ever-increasing range of partnership projects at the country level. One will bring Internet-delivered medical information to developing countries, another will provide communications equipment and expertise for use in disasters and humanitarian emergencies, while a third seeks to significantly increase vaccine coverage among the world's children.

26. Other cooperative activities that the United Nations is pursuing with international organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations, and with individual Member States, are described in the body of this report.

27. In my report, We the Peoples, I review some of the major challenges confronting the international community in the twenty-first century, suggest a series of targets and actions for the Millennium Summit and Assembly to consider and call on Member States to renew their commitment to the United Nations.

28. I am gratified that my proposals have met with such a positive reception. I sincerely hope that Member States will use the opportunities presented by the Millennium Summit and Assembly to go beyond supportive sentiment, and commit themselves firmly to action.

Chapter I

Achieving peace and security

Introduction

29. Sustainable peace and security for all countries and peoples remains a central objective of the United Nations at the dawn of the twenty-first century, as it was when the Organization was founded over half a century ago. No issue commands more of our attention and resources, as the intense pace of work in the Security Council over the past year has again shown. The international community has sought to respond to complex crises in situations as diverse as those in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Kosovo and Sierra Leone.

30. The demands made on the United Nations reflect a shift in the nature of the threats to peace and security since the end of the cold war: from inter-State conflict to intra-State conflict; from the violation of borders to a much greater emphasis on the violation of people. Where conflicts were once driven by the ideological divisions of a bipolar world, they are now fuelled by ethnic and religious intolerance, political ambition and greed, and are often exacerbated by the illicit traffic in arms, gems and drugs.

31. The demands we face also reflect a growing consensus that collective security can no longer be narrowly defined as the absence of armed conflict, be it between or within States. Gross abuses of human rights, the large-scale displacement of civilian populations, international terrorism, the AIDS pandemic, drug and arms trafficking and environmental disasters present a direct threat to human security, forcing us to adopt a much more coordinated approach to a range of issues. Such an approach, as I made clear in my report to the Millennium Assembly, is

one that compels us to think creatively. It requires us, above all, to understand that the various elements that contribute to human security must be addressed in a comprehensive way if we are to sustain durable peace in the future.

32. That we are already embarked on this path is evidenced by changes in the way we manage our numerous and far-flung peace operations, where there is increasing readiness to work across administrative and institutional boundaries in pursuit of lasting solutions to complex problems.

33. United Nations peacemakers, peacekeepers and peace-builders around the world have begun to cooperate more closely than ever with Governments and other actors within the United Nations system, with regional bodies, with non-governmental organizations and with the private sector to help create the basis for good governance and the peaceable resolution of differences between parties. The activities now pursued are far more extensive and complex than those of traditional peacekeeping. They include providing emergency relief; demobilizing and reintegrating former combatants; assistance in clearing and destroying mines; constitutional and legal reform; providing advice on the enhancement of human rights; and the creation and reform of state institutions and electoral assistance. Traditional activities, such as monitoring ceasefires, continue to play a critical role in peacekeeping operations.

34. We have confronted major challenges during the past year and it is clear that there is no room for complacency. Both the United Nations and the Member States that determine its mandates and authorize the resources to accomplish them still have much to learn.

35. Three major studies issued in the past year have sought to promote a better understanding of the needs and the potential of United Nations peace operations. By commissioning reports on the tragedies that happened in Srebrenica and Rwanda, I hoped to clarify what went wrong—including within the United Nations—in order to suggest what we might do differently in the future. Certain clear lessons emerged from those two reports, which have since been reinforced by experience, particularly that of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. Those lessons include the importance of joint action by Member States and the Secretariat to strengthen the instrument of peacekeeping; the need to understand clearly whether peacekeeping or enforcement is needed in a specific situation; the importance of providing adequate resources to meet mission needs and having, even within peacekeeping operations, a credible deterrent capacity; the importance of preparedness for "worst-case" scenarios; the requirement to improve information flows, both between Member States and the Secretariat and within the Secretariat; and the need for more effective and timely analysis of information from the field. Mutual respect by Member States and the Secretariat for each other's roles and responsibilities, including arrangements of command and control in the field, is critical, as is the need for political commitment to initiate and sustain operations.

36. Those two reports also helped us to reflect on the difficult questions surrounding what, in my millennium report, I termed "the dilemma of intervention". It is, of course, relatively easy for the international community to assert that the tragedies of Rwanda and Srebrenica should never be allowed to happen again. But if the reaction to my address last year to the General Assembly is any guide, I fear we may still prove unable to give a credible answer to the question of what happens next time we are faced with a comparable crime against humanity.

37. Recognition that many States have serious and legitimate concerns about intervention does not answer the question I posed in my report, namely, if humanitarian intervention is, indeed, an unacceptable assault on sovereignty, how should we respond to a Rwanda, to a Srebrenica—to gross and systematic violations of human rights that offend every precept of our common humanity? In essence the problem is one of responsibility: in circumstances in which universally accepted human rights are being violated on a massive scale we have a responsibility to act.

38. In recognition of the increasingly complex task faced by the United Nations as it seeks to prevent and resolve conflict, and to keep and build the peace, I requested a panel of experts led by the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Lakhdar Brahimi, to produce a report that would provide an overview of peace operations and suggest how they might be strengthened for the future. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations has just been issued. I am gratified that the Panel's recommendations, some of which I discuss in the introduction to the present report, parallel many of my own proposals, outlined below.

39. If we do not commit ourselves to these vital reforms, there is a real risk that we will continue to fail to meet the challenge of saving the innocent from the scourge of war. I urge Member States to join with me in acting upon the Panel's key recommendations.

Conflict prevention and peacemaking

40. In recent years the international community has agreed that preventing armed conflict is critical to achieving lasting human security. Conflict prevention, as I put it in my millennium report, is where it all begins. Shifting from a culture of reaction to one of prevention is highly cost-effective both in human and in financial terms. In the early stages of a dispute, parties tend to be less polarized and more flexible and thus more inclined to settle their disputes peacefully than after violent conflict has become entrenched. Prevention also offers the best possible chance to address the root causes of a conflict, and not just its consequences, thus providing a real opportunity to sow the seeds of a durable peace.

41. Confronting new outbreaks of violent conflict around the world and recognizing the importance of acting proactively, I have continued to strengthen our early warning and conflict prevention capacities. My primary objective has been to make early warning and conflict prevention a day-to-day concern for United Nations staff, both at Headquarters and in the field.

42. In this context the Department of Political Affairs, serving as the focal point for conflict prevention within the United Nations system, has established a Prevention Team, which meets regularly to identify conflict situations that may offer potential for preventive action. Other departments and agencies have also strengthened their capacity in this area; once a developing crisis has been identified by a United Nations department or agency, consultations are held within the new interdepartmental Framework for Coordination. Meanwhile, the United Nations Staff College at Turin, Italy, in close cooperation with the Secretariat, has launched a conflict prevention training course, so far attended by more than 400 staff members from 22 departments, agencies, offices and programmes.

43. Experience shows that the success of the United Nations in helping to prevent conflicts will hinge upon close collaboration with Member States and a large number of other actors, including regional arrangements, non-governmental organizations and others. Following a high-level meeting held in New York in July 1998, we established a programme for coordination in conflict prevention with regional organizations, and have sought to improve our contacts with a variety of non-governmental actors. Such efforts should not obscure the fact that the primary responsibility for the prevention of conflict lies with Member States. Successful conflict prevention, under United Nations auspices, ultimately requires the political will to provide the necessary leadership and resources for action.

44. I therefore welcome the growing attention Member States have paid to conflict prevention. This was most vividly demonstrated in the general debate during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, as well as in the groundbreaking open debates on conflict prevention held by the Security Council in November 1999 and July 2000 and the comprehensive action plan adopted by the Group of Eight in July. The far-reaching presidential statements adopted by the Security Council indicated the broad commitment of Member States to improving the capacity of the United Nations for effective preventive action. It is important that this momentum is maintained and I look forward to engaging with Member States directly on this issue in the coming months.

45. No region in the world illustrates the need to prevent conflict, and the costs of the failure to do so, more dramatically than Africa. The dreadful human cost inflicted by conflicts in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and elsewhere is self-evident. Tragically, despite the collective efforts of the international community to avert a resumption of hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia, including a visit to both countries by a delegation of the Security Council, fierce fighting resumed in May 2000, inflicting high levels of casualties and widespread destruction.

46. Assisting Eritrea and Ethiopia to resolve their conflict through support for the mediation efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has been a major preoccupation during the past year. I urged the leaders of the parties to pursue a peaceful settlement and asked my Special Envoy on Africa to assist OAU in this regard. On 18 June, an agreement on the cessation of hostilities was signed—a necessary first step towards the restoration of peace through a comprehensive peace settlement. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea will soon be deployed on the border between the two countries, and we will assist in implementing the agreement and providing support for the mediation efforts of OAU.

47. In Burundi, the designation of former President Nelson Mandela as the new facilitator of the peace process, after the death of former President Julius Nyerere in October 1999, brought new momentum to the Arusha process. United Nations assistance to the peace process increased with the provision of technical and conference service support, in addition to the assignment of a senior political adviser to the facilitator. I have also raised the profile of our in-

volvement by designating a Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, with special emphasis on Burundi.

48. In the quest for peace in Somalia there have been many false dawns. The Government of Djibouti's peace initiative for Somalia is therefore something I have warmly welcomed. The Somali National Peace Conference, which opened at Arta, Djibouti, in May, has seen considerable success and secured the participation of a wide spectrum of Somalis. The extent of participation by a number of Somali groups and individuals remains mixed, however, "Somaliland", in particular, remaining firmly outside the peace process. Success will continue to depend on the extent of unity that Somalis can achieve in reaching agreement on future political arrangements for their country.

49. Meanwhile, the war in Angola, which resumed in October 1998, continues to cause terrible suffering. Almost 3.7 million people are internally displaced and hundreds of thousands more have been forced to flee their country. While the Government of Angola has weakened the military capabilities of UNITA, it is aware that military force alone will not bring peace to the country and has reiterated its commitment to the Lusaka Protocol. The United Nations is committed to working closely with the Government of Angola and all others concerned to help bring the war to an end and restore peace in the country. To this end, I have asked my Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa to pay particular attention to Angola.

50. It is encouraging to note that African States themselves are increasingly determined to work together to avert the outbreak of new conflicts and to promote peace in the region. This was demonstrated when a sudden and unconstitutional change of government occurred in Côte d'Ivoire in December 1999 and States of the region took the lead, with support from the United Nations, in seeking to help Côte d'Ivoire to restore constitutional order.

51. An area of renewed engagement of United Nations efforts in the last year—and one that has seen significant progress—is the Middle East. For 22 years, United Nations peacekeepers have served in southern Lebanon in one of our longest standing peacekeeping commitments anywhere in the world. Following several missions to the region by my Special Envoy, I reported to the Security Council on 16 June that Israeli forces had withdrawn from Lebanon in compliance with Council resolution 425(1978). Soon afterwards, I visited the countries of the region to encourage the parties and other regional leaders to support the efforts to consolidate the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon. Notwithstanding the reservations of the Governments of Lebanon and Israel about the withdrawal line, they both confirmed that they would respect the line as identified by the United Nations. After Israel withdrew its forces, the Government of Lebanon began to reassert law and order functions throughout the area.

52. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon is being reinforced so that it may carry out its responsibilities under the resolution. I trust that the international community will be quick to assist Lebanon with the task of reconstructing the economy in the south and rebuilding its links with the rest of the country. In August 2000,1 appointed a Personal Representative for Southern Lebanon to coordinate United Nations efforts and assist in bringing peace and stability to the region.

53. I have also been encouraged by the renewed bilateral and multilateral efforts in search of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. At the Camp David summit hosted by President Clinton, the quest for a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians reached a crucial stage. I hope that the parties will persist in their efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the permanent status agreement to a successful conclusion.

54. Iraq's lack of compliance with various Security Council resolutions continues to be of grave concern. After lengthy negotiations, the Security Council adopted resolution 1284(1999) on 17 December 1999, replacing the United Nations Special Commission with a new inspection agency for Iraq, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). I appointed an Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC and a College of Commissioners to act as an advisory body. Iraq, however, has not accepted the resolution.

55. There has been no United Nations presence in Iraq since December 1998 to ensure Iraq's compliance with Security Council resolutions concerning its programmes of weapons of mass destruction. In its resolution 1284(1999) the Security Council also reiterated Iraq's obligations to repatriate all Kuwaiti and third-country missing nationals and return all Kuwaiti property. Iraq has not agreed to cooperate with the high-level coordinator I appointed to deal with these issues, and the matter remains unresolved.

56. The challenge of bringing peace to Afghanistan, another of the world's intractable conflicts, remains daunting. The past year has seen scant progress, as the warring factions have evidenced little enthusiasm for a negotiated settlement. Meanwhile, there has been a continuing in-

flux of war materiel from outside powers, in clear violation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and the Tashkent Declaration signed by the "six plus two" group of countries in July 1999. Since his appointment in February 2000 my Personal Representative and Head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan has established an ongoing dialogue with Afghan leaders, including the Taliban and the United Front, as well as with other countries whose assistance will be essential if an overall settlement is to be achieved.

57. The fragility of the region remains evident in the continuing tensions between India and Pakistan. It is regrettable that the two countries, both of which tested nuclear devices two years ago, have not been able to resume their bilateral dialogue. In Kashmir the situation along the line of control remains precarious and the level of violence and insecurity has increased. This is unacceptable. In this context, proposals currently under discussion aimed at resolving the conflict should be encouraged. Meanwhile, the worsening of the internal conflict in Sri Lanka has increased the concern of the international community, which has offered its backing to Norway's facilitation efforts.

58. I have paid close attention to positive developments on the Korean peninsula, where the follow-up to the recent historic inter-Korean summit offers an opportunity to establish trust between the two parties and resolve a bitter conflict that has persisted for half a century. I attach particular importance to enhancing the United Nations humanitarian and development effort in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

59. On a very different scale are developments in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, where the work of the United Nations Political Office illustrates how effectively a small presence can help to maintain the integrity of a peace process. The Office was instrumental in assisting the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville parties to arrive at the Loloata Understanding in March 2000 and the Gateway communique in June 2000, which laid the basis for further talks on a political settlement of the crisis in Bougainville.

60. In April 2000, I appointed a new Special Envoy for Myanmar. While I am not able to report substantive progress in our efforts, I am heartened to note that, with the agreement of the Government of Myanmar, the International Committee of the Red Cross began its humanitarian work in the country in 1999.

61. In Fiji, in response to the crisis precipitated by the detention of Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and others, I immediately dispatched my Personal Envoy, who conveyed to the leaders of the political parties my deep concern about the use of violence against a democratically elected government. While I welcome the release of the hostages, much more needs to be done to return the country to normalcy. Sustainable peace, stability and the prosperity of Fiji can be assured only if the aspirations of all communities within Fijian society are taken into account and when all its citizens can play a meaningful role in the political and economic life of the country. I stand ready to work with the Commonwealth and the international community to this end. Recent setbacks in the democratic process in another Pacific country, Solomon Islands, have also caused deep concern.

62. In Europe, I have been encouraged by the continuing improvement in relations between Greece and Turkey. This evolution, bolstered by the Helsinki decision of the European Union regarding Turkey, should help to support efforts directed towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. A continuous process of proximity talks involving Glafcos Clerides and Rauf Denktash is under way under my auspices. With the assistance of my Special Adviser, attempts are being made to develop a conceptual framework for future progress.

63. My Special Representative for Georgia has made a great effort to reinvigorate the Georgian/Abkhaz peace process, in particular by convening the Coordinating Council and by meeting regularly with the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He has shifted attention back to the core issue of the conflict, the political status of Abkhazia, Georgia, while continuing to negotiate, with both sides, issues such as the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and economic rehabilitation. While some progress has been achieved, the parties still lack the necessary political will to move towards a comprehensive political settlement.

64. In Latin America, taking note of the growing international concern about the security and human rights situation in Colombia, I appointed a Special Adviser on International Assistance to Colombia in December 1999. He has established contact with a range of actors both within and outside the country and helped to heighten international awareness of the need for a settlement of the country's conflict.

Peacekeeping and peace-building

65. The efforts to gain a better understanding of the needs of United Nations peace operations, outlined in the introduction to this chapter, have

been made in the context of extraordinarily rapid developments on the ground. Over the past year, there has been a dramatic increase in peacekeeping activities, and recognition of the critically important links between peacekeeping and peacebuilding is increasingly reflected in practice in the field. As the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations noted in its recently released report, peacekeepers and peace-builders are "inseparable partners", and the only ready exit for peacekeeping forces is sustainable peace.

66. The operation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is now fully established; new operations were launched in East Timor and the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the year, and another is contemplated for Eritrea and Ethiopia; major changes have taken place or are envisaged for operations in Sierra Leone and southern Lebanon; and peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic and Tajikistan have been successfully concluded and succeeded by smaller peace-building offices.

67. United Nations authorized deployment stands at approximately 45,000 uniformed personnel (troops, observers and civilian police) and a further 13,000 international and local civilian staff for peacekeeping operations mandated by the Security Council; the corresponding figures for this time last year were less than 17,000 uniformed personnel and less than 10,000 civilians. Operations broadly described as peace-building, and under the authority of the General Assembly, have 341 international personnel in the field, supported by 455 local staff, up from 203 and 244 respectively this time last year. However, these numbers in themselves do not indicate the extent of the challenges that increasingly confront peacekeeping operations. I have identified eight of these challenges below; many of them are echoed in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.

New types of tasks

68. Peacekeeping has become more complicated because peacekeepers must now undertake a greatly expanded range of tasks. Beyond interposition forces and multidisciplinary operations to assist the parties to implement agreements, peacekeepers over the past year have assumed responsibility for interim administrations in Kosovo and East Timor, balancing the competing and sometimes contradictory tasks of governing those territories, supporting the emergence of local institutions and maintaining law and order.

New types of personnel

69. The assumption of these new responsibilities has required that the United Nations expand and adapt the profile of peacekeepers in the field. Over a little more than a year, reflecting in particular the deployment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor, the authorized deployment of police has jumped from approximately 2,500 to over 8,600, a more than threefold increase. In addition, these new missions have obliged the United Nations to recruit lawyers and judges; city administrators; and experts in customs, fiscal management, public utilities, health, education, sanitation and agriculture.

Deterrent capacity

70. This past year offered further evidence, in particular in Sierra Leone, of the precarious environments in which today's operations are deployed, environments that can threaten the effectiveness of operations and the security of peacekeepers. As the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations notes, these operational experiences have underlined the importance of the United Nations deploying credible deterrent capacity with "robust rules of engagement". There is also a clear need for further efforts in three areas: we need more and better equipped and trained troops; ongoing capacity-building efforts in developing countries, drawing upon bilateral and multilateral partnerships, to expand the pool of potential peacekeepers; and more effective use of United Nations standby capacities to provide equipment to peacekeeping troops in the field.

Readiness/rapid deployment

71. Events over the past year have demonstrated once again how important it is to be able to deploy forces rapidly, and have revealed the constraints in the critical areas of logistics, finance and human resources. Supplies of mission equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, are now largely depleted. Yet, as a result of additional and more complex mandates, we face increased demands on the same or fewer resources. In this context I am gratified that the Panel on Peace Operations recommends that the Secretary-General be allowed funds to start planning a mission before the Security Council approves it.

Timely and predictable financial support within peace processes

72. The effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants can

be crucial to the success of a peace process, without some degree of predictability of funding for such operations, the entire enterprise risks failure. To avoid such an outcome I have urged Member States to consider a more flexible approach to the use of assessed funding in this area.

The role of economic incentives in perpetuating conflict

73. The United Nations experiences in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and elsewhere have revealed what damage struggles for control over diamonds, timber, drugs, guns and other resources can do to a peace process. The importance of this issue was highlighted during the year by debates in the Security Council and by the report of the panel of experts on sanctions against UNITA in Angola. The report revealed the extent to which violations of sanctions, in the form of exports of illicitly mined diamonds, were sustaining the war in Angola.

Cooperation with regional organizations

74. Over the past year, cooperation with regional organizations and others in peacebuilding has proved fruitful on several occasions, but practical, political and organizational problems continue to make it a complicated undertaking. Those who will be responsible for implementing a peace agreement must be present during the negotiation phase to ensure that the operation is based on realistic assumptions. Furthermore, the lines of reporting and division of labour should be as unambiguous as possible; the Organization's relationships with OSCE and the European Union in Kosovo represent an important step in the right direction. Efforts to improve working arrangements with respect to peacekeeping, will continue, and the forthcoming high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations will be dedicated to cooperation in peace-building.

Staffing at Headquarters

75. The past year's events have underlined the importance of adequate staffing at Headquarters, an issue which is dealt with in some depth by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. I am in complete agreement with the Panel's view that Headquarters support for peacekeeping should be funded primarily through the regular United Nations budget rather than via the current Support Account, which has to be justified on a post-by-post basis every year.

76. I welcomed the decision of the General Assembly in November 1999 to approve a number of posts within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. However, the significant loss of personnel and expertise previously incurred through the departure of gratis personnel severely constrained the Secretariat's efforts to support new deployments, expansions and changes of mandate, as well as the liquidation of completed missions. The fact that so much was achieved with so few resources should be acknowledged as a major achievement of the Organization. Recognizing the extraordinary constraints under which the Secretariat has been required to operate and the impact those constraints have had on the planning and execution of missions, the Panel on Peace Operations has recommended an urgent increase in funding. In particular it urges the creation of a new information and analysis unit that will service all departments with peace and security responsibilities.

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77. No two operations have demonstrated the extent of the challenges outlined above more comprehensively than those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone. The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa's third largest country, involves a number of regional States and continues to threaten the stability of the region as a whole. In accordance with my recommendations of 17 January 2000 for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the Security Council authorized the deployment of a total of 5,537 officers and men. The task of that force was to provide secure logistics bases for the operations of up to 500 military observers charged with monitoring the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

78. MONUC has experienced serious problems from the outset, including persistent restrictions on its freedom of movement by the Government and other parties; repeated outbreaks of fighting, including major military offensives, in violation of the ceasefire; and logistical challenges arising from the degraded state of the infrastructure in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the huge size of the country. MONUC operations are continually constrained by the deep suspicion that exists between the parties and, from time to time, by hostility towards the United Nations itself.

79. The overall situation in Sierra Leone remains tense and critical. The successive and unprovoked attacks on, and detentions of, United Nations personnel by the Revolutionary United

Front fighters, initiated in May 2000, have seriously undermined the prospects for peace in that country and continue to pose serious challenges to the operations of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

80. Despite the difficulties in implementation, I share the view reaffirmed by both the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Security Council that the broad terms of the Lome Peace Agreement reached in July 1999 remain important as a basis for moving towards durable peace. However, the determined and cohesive support of the neighbouring States and subregional organizations, particularly ECOWAS, and of troop contributors as well as the international community, remain vital if the Mission is to secure the credible military strength necessary to fulfil the broad objectives of the Peace Agreement.

81. Meanwhile, in Western Sahara, nine years have passed since the plan for the settlement of the conflict between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO was agreed to, yet the settlement plan has still to be implemented and the situation remains delicate. In my recent report to the Security Council on the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), I have included suggestions that may assist in resolving the multiple problems relating to the implementation of the settlement plan. The presence of MINURSO remains critical to prevent any worsening of the conflict.

82. Challenges of a different kind confront the United Nations in Kosovo and East Timor. In Kosovo, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has continued to work closely with the international security presence (KFOR) to create a safe and secure environment for all the residents of the province.

83. A particular challenge has been the development and implementation of the rule of law in Kosovo. In cooperation with OSCE, the Mission is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to rebuild and reform the judicial, police and penal systems. UNMIK has also made progress in ensuring the direct involvement of the local population in the administration of the province. This involvement will be further enhanced following municipal elections later this year. With the assistance of the European Union, good progress has been made in establishing a macroeconomic framework in Kosovo. On the humanitarian front, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and her staff in Kosovo, together with key partners in the United Nations system, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and non-governmental organizations, successfully met the challenges of the emergency relief needs of Kosovo throughout the winter. As a result, the humanitarian "pillar" of UNMIK was terminated at the end of June, and the Mission is now focusing on reconstruction and development.

84. The presence of the United Nations in Kosovo complements its long-standing engagement in the region, particularly through the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), which continues to assist in the establishment of the rule of law as part of the implementation of the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement. After lengthy efforts to overcome political obstruction, in June 2000, UNMIBH finally inaugurated the first unit of the new multi-ethnic State Border Service. This is the first and only executive law enforcement organ that is under the joint institutions of the State, rather than its ethnically based entities. Efforts to redress the ethnic imbalance in the police forces are, however, proceeding exceedingly slowly.

85. The past year has seen extraordinary developments in East Timor. The popular consultation in the territory on 30 August 1999 resulted in 78.5 per cent of voters rejecting the autonomy option offered by Indonesia, thereby expressing their preference for a transition towards independence under United Nations auspices. Unfortunately, that success was marred by the subsequent violence, destruction and forcible displacement of hundreds of thousands of East Timorese, a direct result of the failure of the Indonesian authorities to fulfil their security responsibilities under the agreements of 5 May 1999.

86. The speedy and resolute action of the Security Council in authorizing the deployment of the International Force, East Timor (INTERFET), led by Australia, and the subsequent establishment of UNTAET helped to bring to an end a long and sad chapter in East Timor's history. The complex and difficult task of rebuilding East Timor and preparing it for full independence is proceeding but faces formidable challenges. Political skill, patience and a high level of international and local-level cooperation and coordination are the necessary conditions for success, and cooperation between UNTAET and the East Timorese has proceeded with vigour and goodwill. UNTAET intends gradually to expand the participation of the East Timorese in the administration so as to ensure a seamless transition to independence. The positive disposition of the President of Indonesia, Abdurrahman Wahid, and the East Timorese leadership, particularly Xanana Gusmão, bodes well for good relations in the future.

87. While we have confronted major difficulties and resource constraints in mounting these operations, I am gratified to report that the past year has also seen a considerable reduction in the level of United Nations engagement in the Central African Republic and Tajikistan.

88. The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, which completed its work in February 2000, played a crucial role in restoring peace and security to the country. It also helped to create conditions conducive to holding national elections, restructuring the security forces, training the national police and gendarmerie and launching major economic and social reforms. I have since established, with the concurrence of the Security Council, the United Nations Peace-building Support Office. The new office will assist the Government and people of the Central African Republic in the peace process, and help to nurture democratic institutions and build socio-economic recovery and respect for human rights and the rule of law, demonstrating how much can be done to promote peace and national reconciliation when missions are conducted with a clear mandate, appropriate resources, the commitment of the parties and the sustained support of the international community.

89. As in the Central African Republic, our objective in Guinea-Bissau and Liberia, where United Nations peace-building offices are also in place, is not simply to deal with the immediate challenges of post-conflict stabilization, but also to promote sustainable peace in the longer term. Here and elsewhere the United Nations is working with local actors to address the root causes of conflict and thus minimize the chance that violence will reoccur.

90. The United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Tajikistan, which was established in May 2000, will provide the political framework and leadership for the peace-building activities of the United Nations system in that country. It builds on the success of more than seven years of United Nations peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts in Tajikistan. The United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, working closely with regional guarantor States and international organizations, assisted the Tajik parties in overcoming many obstacles to peace, national reconciliation and development. However, the conflict in neighbouring Afghanistan and the complexities of domestic politics mean that renewed instability cannot be ruled out. Consequently, the continuing support of the international community in the post-conflict phase will be important for Tajikistan's ability to sustain and build on the achievements of the peace process.

91. Haiti presents another example of a country in which the United Nations presence has recently changed. In this case the shift came about after a series of peacekeeping missions deployed since 1995 came to an end, including the joint United Nations/Organization of American States International Civilian Mission in Haiti. Those multidimensional missions were not mandated to re-establish or maintain peace in the wake of an armed conflict, but rather to solve a serious internal crisis by re-establishing democracy, improving respect for human rights and reforming state institutions, particularly the police.

92. In order to consolidate the Mission's achievements I recommended to the General Assembly that it establish the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH), which has taken over the task of assisting the ongoing transition to democratic constitutional rule. MICAH has three substantive pillars of activity: human rights, police and justice.

93. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala remains the largest of the United Nations peace-building missions. It continues to provide good offices and advisory and public information functions to support the implementation of the peace agreements. Many substantive reforms remain incomplete, however. Although 2000 is the final year in the official implementation calendar, the parties to the agreements have proposed that the implementation timetable be extended. Consequently, I am conducting consultations on means of consolidating the peace-building process in order to allow me to make an appropriate recommendation to the General Assembly.

94. Peace-building in practice involves initiatives to help promote national reconciliation and justice, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the organization of free and fair elections. It also includes measures to create propitious conditions for sustainable economic growth, a necessary condition for reconstruction. In pursuing these goals, our offices maintain regular contacts with relevant donor countries and with representatives of the international financial institutions.

95. United Nations peace-building activities have been strengthened by a closer working relationship between peace operations and the field offices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Such field offices are currently in place in Bosnia, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

96. Another far-reaching aspect of our peace-building work is that related to mine clear-

ing. The Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations works with its partners in missions all over the world to help locate and clear mines—a task that is growing as the number of mine-affected countries continues to rise and new mines are laid in countries previously cleared. These developments have further strained the limited resources that are available. Access to resources is only part of the problem, however, and once again I would like to stress the need to stigmatize the production, distribution and use of these indiscriminate weapons.

Electoral assistance

97. The United Nations provides assistance to electoral institutions for two reasons, namely, to enhance administrative capacity to hold credible, transparent and fair elections and to assist in the institutional consolidation required during the post-election period. Over the medium and long term such assistance aims to prevent the democratic breakdown and erosion that may sometimes occur after the first elections are held in societies in transition and to stabilize the electoral institutions themselves.

98. The provision of electoral assistance is a vital component of the United Nations system's overall peace-building and democratization strategies. Over the past eight years, the United Nations has experienced a significant increase in the number and complexity of requests for electoral assistance. Since its establishment in 1992, the Electoral Assistance Division has provided assistance in 150 electoral processes, ranging from the organization of elections to the provision of technical support. Particularly notable during the past year has been the United Nations participation in the electoral processes in Mexico and Nigeria.

Sanctions

99. Sanctions have had an uneven track record in encouraging compliance with Security Council resolutions and in recent years their efficacy has been increasingly questioned. In the case of comprehensive economic sanctions, concerns have been expressed about their negative effects on civilians and on neighbouring States, whose trading relations are harmed by sanctions but which receive no compensation for the harm suffered. The costs of sanctions have too often been borne by ordinary people, not by the authoritarian Governments against which they were directed. Paradoxically, the political elites that compose the regimes themselves have often benefited economically from the black markets that have sprung up to circumvent the sanctions intended to exert pressure upon them.

100. I therefore share the view, emerging as a consensus among Member States, that the design and implementation of Security Council sanctions need to be improved, and their administration enhanced, to allow a more prompt and effective response to present and future threats to international peace and security. Future sanctions regimes should be designed so as to maximize the chance of inducing the target to comply with Security Council resolutions while minimizing the negative effects of the sanctions on the civilian population and neighbouring and other affected States.

101. The debate on sanctions held in the Security Council in April and the subsequent establishment of an informal working group of the Council, with a mandate to draw up general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of sanctions, demonstrated the Council's readiness to consider practical steps to improve sanctions regimes. This is a welcome development that should help the Council to oversee the evolution of sanctions into a more potent instrument of deterrence and conflict prevention.

Disarmament

102. Disarmament is a critical element of the United Nations strategy for peace and security. Steps to reduce the level of arms and curb proliferation not only make the world a safer place by reducing the propensity for conflict but also lessen the temptation for States to embark on costly arms races. The latest figures indicate that global military expenditures increased in 1999 for the first time in the post-cold-war period, bringing total spending to approximately $780 billion, or 2.6 per cent of the world's gross national product.

103. Despite some progress in the reduction of nuclear weapons—in particular the Russian Federation's ratification of the second Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Arms (START II)—there is deep concern within the international community at the continuing risk posed by such weapons. The results of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are therefore of considerable importance. The unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, a reinvigorated effort to halt the global spread of nuclear weapons and a strengthening of the standards governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy—all issues crucial to the security of the peoples of the United Nations—provide grounds for encouragement. Much, however, re-

mains to be done. The universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the speedy negotiation of a protocol to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention are achievable goals; I strongly urge their pursuit.

104. While the number of ratifications of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has increased during the past year, the challenges that confront its entry into force persist, especially after the United States Senate's rejection of ratification in October 1999. It is essential that the Final Declaration of the Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the Treaty, held in October 1999, be implemented. I therefore reiterate my call to all States to ratify the Treaty, particularly those whose ratification is necessary for it to enter into force.

105. Last year, I drew attention to the dangers posed by the development and testing of long-range missiles. While that danger remains, there is also danger from another quarter, namely, the growing pressure to deploy national missile defences. Within the scientific community there is widespread scepticism that such systems could ever work effectively, and real concern that their deployment could lead to a new arms race, set back nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation policies, and create new incentives for missile proliferation. I trust that States will weigh these factors very carefully before embarking on a path that could jeopardize the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and that may reduce, rather than enhance, global security.

106. With respect to conventional arms, preparations are being made for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, scheduled for 2001. Since these are the weapons that kill most people in most wars, the outcome of the Conference is of crucial importance. We must reduce the risks to the people most threatened by those weapons, including the children who are often recruited as soldiers to use them. Some progress is already being made as States tighten their arms export legislation and collect and destroy surplus weapons. Innovative approaches such as "weapons for development" and "weapons for food" programmes are yielding concrete results as practical disarmament measures at the community level. This progress is due to close cooperation between States, the business sector, groups in civil society and the international community.

107. Although the United Nations is a global Organization, it recognizes that regional approaches to arms control and disarmament may also play a crucial role in enhancing security. The three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament have been revitalized but a chronic lack of resources unfortunately continues to limit their effectiveness.

108. During the 2000 Review Conference of the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, non-governmental organizations working in the field of disarmament had an unprecedented opportunity to express their views to States parties at a meeting organized for that purpose. They also continued to play an unofficial but vital monitoring role under the Ottawa Convention, on anti-personnel mines. I trust that Member States will bear in mind the constructive contribution that civil society makes to disarmament when they decide how non-governmental organizations are to participate in the conference on small arms in 2001.

Chapter II

Meeting humanitarian commitments

109. The past year has been marked by humanitarian emergencies that far surpassed predicted worst-case scenarios. Protracted conflicts in Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sri Lanka and the Sudan continued unabated. Crises escalated or erupted in the Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, East Timor and Chechnya, and between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The situation in Burundi deteriorated because of Government-led mass forced relocation programmes, and the outbreak of violence in Sierra Leone in May 2000 has had serious humanitarian consequences. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of these violent conflicts, as victims of direct attacks, indiscriminate bombings, rape and sexual torture, forced relocation, the denial or restriction of access to humanitarian assistance and numerous other human rights violations.

110. Apart from these complex emergencies, natural disasters have once again wrought devastation in many developing countries. Mongolia, Turkey, India, Venezuela and southern Africa, among others, were severely affected by the consequences of snowstorms, earthquakes, cyclones, mudslides and floods, while drought spread in the Horn of Africa and gained momentum in Central Asia. The number and scale of natural disasters are growing rapidly, demanding greater international cooperation for the provision of assistance to affected populations.

Coordinating humanitarian action

111. This past year, improved coordination of international humanitarian action has been characterized by the implementation of innova-

live approaches in major emergencies in Kosovo and East Timor, and by the challenges of providing protection to internally displaced persons and civilians in armed conflict. In response to the humanitarian crisis in the Balkans, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs seconded personnel to perform coordination functions in support of the lead role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the region. They helped to create the Emergency Management Group in Albania, and later established an Inter-Agency Coordination Unit and a Humanitarian Community Information Centre in Kosovo.

112. In response to the East Timor crisis, a senior humanitarian coordinator was immediately deployed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to lead an inter-agency team of specialists. This deployment provided vital coordination services until the humanitarian component of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) could be established. The Office also supported my Special Representative for East Timor in designing, staffing and providing initial funding for the humanitarian component of UNTAET.

113. An inter-agency response was developed to address the rapid growth of internally displaced persons in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Emergency Relief Coordinator and the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee also intensified their efforts to improve the coordination and delivery of programmes for internally displaced persons.

114. Since internally displaced persons remain by definition citizens of their own country, international responses to specific situations are designed in collaboration with Governments and local authorities in each affected country. It had been clear for some time that the international response mechanisms needed to be reviewed, and that clearer lines of responsibility and accountability had to be agreed upon. A series of reviews were undertaken and a policy paper on the protection of internally displaced persons has been produced. The central premise of the policy is that the responsibility for internally displaced persons lies first and foremost with their national Government, but it is recognized that the capacity and willingness of authorities to fulfil their responsibilities may be insufficient or lacking altogether in some conflict situations. The policy therefore urges humanitarian agencies to cooperate with national and local authorities and other relevant actors to support and supplement their efforts on behalf of the displaced. In adopting these guidelines, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee has sought to resolve some of the ambiguities that impede effective humanitarian action in crises.

115. The Committee also advocates strengthening the legal and physical protection of civilians caught in armed conflict. In September 1999, I presented to the Security Council my report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, which contained 40 recommendations aimed at reducing the threats to civilians in armed conflict. The report was transmitted to the General Assembly in November. The Security Council has adopted several resolutions supporting my recommendations, and has undertaken to give special emphasis to the protection and rights of children in armed conflict. Those resolutions constitute a significant milestone in the humanitarian community's long-standing efforts to ensure that the causes of humanitarian crises are addressed politically at the highest international level.

116. The response so far to the consolidated inter-agency appeals for the year 2000 has been disappointing. As at 30 June 2000, midway through the appeal cycle, just 34 per cent of the total requirements were available. This amount is lower, in percentage terms, than pledges made to the 1999 consolidated appeals by the same time last year, despite acknowledged improvements in the quality of the appeals. Further efforts are being made to strengthen the consolidated appeal process in the coming year and more innovative approaches are being considered to help mobilize resources for these "forgotten emergencies".

117. In the consolidated appeals for 2000, requests for funding to meet security needs were introduced for the first time, US$ 8.5 million being sought for security-related activities in 10 countries or regions. All future consolidated appeals will include a comprehensive review of security requirements.

118. Efforts to improve the United Nations response to the growing number of natural and environmental disasters include the appointment by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of regional natural disaster response advisers in Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. The advisers counsel and assist Governments and regional networks in natural disaster preparations. They also assist in the deployment of United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams from within the disaster region and elsewhere around the world.

119. In 1999, those teams were deployed on 12 occasions. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also assisted the members of the International Search and Rescue Advisory

Group in coordinating the international search and rescue teams that were deployed in response to earthquakes in three continents.

120. Member States recognized the achievements of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and the need to continue disaster reduction activities under the leadership of the United Nations system, in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63 and General Assembly resolution 54/219, concerning future arrangements for natural disaster reduction. The new strategy helps communities to resist the effects of natural, technological and environmental hazards and reduce their social and economic costs. The initiative also seeks to integrate risk-prevention strategies into sustainable development activities. During the past year increasing emphasis has been placed on multidisciplinary approaches to disaster reduction. Priority is being given to using scientific and technological innovations relevant to disaster reduction and to engaging local decision makers and citizens' groups in developing sustainable long-term disaster reduction strategies at the regional and national levels. An inter-agency task force has been established to facilitate the new multidisciplinary approach. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) chairs a working group to develop measures to quantify risk, vulnerability and impact indicators; the United Nations Environment Programme chairs a working group on early warning systems; and the World Meteorological Organization chairs a working group on forecasting the socio-economic impacts of future occurrences of El Niño, climate change and variability.

Delivering humanitarian services

121. During the past year, areas receiving United Nations humanitarian assistance included Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor, Kosovo, Mozambique, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, and the Great Lakes region in Africa.

122. In 1999, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided food aid to nearly 89 million people worldwide, much of it in the form of emergency and recovery operations. The number of people assisted represented a 17 per cent increase over the 1998 total. Some 41 million of those assisted were victims of natural disasters. Approximately 18 million more vulnerable civilians caught in conflict situations, including internally displaced persons and refugees, were also assisted.

123. Seventy-five per cent of the people reached by WFP humanitarian activities in 1999 were women and children. In nearly all ongoing humanitarian operations, in compliance with the policies of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its own "commitments to women" policy, WFP and its partners have concentrated efforts to tackle the gender-related aspects and social dimensions of food insecurity, embedding gender concerns within humanitarian assistance programmes.

124. The response of WFP to rapid onset crises, like those in the Balkans and East Timor, demonstrated the Programme's ability to facilitate effective food aid coordination and provide logistic and telecommunication support to humanitarian partners from the very outset of such crises. WFP and its partners are now able to rapidly develop coordinated intervention strategies that target the needs of the most vulnerable.

125. As a consequence of its improved analytic and forecasting capabilities, WFP was one of the first agencies to detect signals of an impending, drought-related regional food crisis in the Horn of Africa late in 1999, and alert the international community to the severity of the situation. In response to that crisis, in March 2000 I appointed the Executive Director of WFP as my Special Representative for the Drought in the Horn of Africa.

126. Staff security continues to be of great concern to the World Food Programme. Seven staff members lost their lives in the field in 1999. WFP persists in its efforts to strengthen the Organization's capacity to protect its staff in the field and nearly all staff have now undergone security training.

127. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides early warning of impending food emergencies, produces information on crop and food supplies, assesses emergency needs in the agricultural sector, provides agricultural inputs so that people can grow their own food and reduce their dependence on food aid, assists Governments in coping with crises and gives technical advice to non-governmental organizations active in agriculture.

128. Thanks to donor funding, and United Nations system partners such as WFP, UNHCR and UNDP, FAO together with its non-governmental organization partners has been able to conduct major campaigns to provide agricultural inputs to internally displaced persons, returnees and refugees and to implement early rehabilitation programmes. FAO has also continued to work closely with WFP and UNHCR in assisting refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host populations to improve their food security

situation. FAO has provided technical assistance for disaster mapping and for establishing integrated information management systems for disaster management.

129. Immunizations, nutrition, pharmaceuticals, controlling epidemics and mental health remain World Health Organization (WHO) priorities. This past year, WHO has called attention to such critical global health threats as malaria, poliomyelitis, HIV/AIDS and maternal mortality. Efforts to overcome these challenges have been complicated by the increased number of natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies. With the support of the Organization's central management bodies, intensified efforts have been made to enhance the readiness of WHO country offices and to assess and address the health needs of those affected by natural and human-induced disasters in a timely manner.

130. In the field, and with enhanced support from regional offices and headquarters, WHO has focused on health and nutritional surveillance, providing the data that is critical for coordinated planning and implementation of assistance, both in emergencies and post-crisis reconstruction.

131. In 1999-2000, special efforts have been made to eradicate polio, to control malaria, and to define new strategies for HIV/AIDS control and safe motherhood in complex emergencies. WHO has also continued to monitor the equitable distribution of commodities imported into Iraq under Security Council resolution 986(1995). Work continued in the Palestinian self-rule areas to reform health-care systems. Strengthening the dialogue and coordination between national and international health actors, and bridging the gap between recovery, rehabilitation and health development, have continued to be high priority issues for the Organization.

132. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), together with its United Nations and non-governmental organization partners, provided humanitarian aid and protection to more than 48 million children and women affected by man-made and natural disasters in the past year. In response to the resolution adopted in August 1999 by the Security Council, stressing the need for greater and more effective efforts to protect children caught in armed conflict, UNICEF developed a comprehensive package of programmes and interventions for children and mothers in emergency situations, including baby care, preschool and primary education, recreational activities, and education about health and nutrition. UNICEF also increased its support for demobilization and reintegration programmes for children in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and strengthened and expanded programmes in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo and East Timor supporting the reunification of families separated by conflict. Psycho-social support for children affected by conflict and displacement was provided in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. In Kosovo, East Timor and many other emergency situations, UNICEF support to basic education and schooling has helped to restore some normalcy to children's lives.

133. National Immunization Days were conducted throughout the year in an effort to eradicate polio in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania. In pursuing these campaigns in countries embroiled in violent conflict, UNICEF worked with WHO to negotiate "days of tranquillity" to enable children to be immunized safely.

134. In 1999, UNICEF launched a Global Peace and Security Agenda to help guide international efforts on behalf of children and women in armed conflict. The set of goals, presented to the Security Council by the Executive Director, calls for an end to the use of children as soldiers; the protection of children from the effects of sanctions; the inclusion of specific provisions for children in peace-building; an end to impunity from war crimes—especially those committed against children; early warning and preventive action for children; and improvements in the safety of humanitarian workers.

135. During the past year my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict has focused on engaging regional, intergovernmental and civil society organizations with the plight of children in armed conflict and advocating the application of relevant norms and standards; raising the age-limit for the recruitment and participation of young persons in armed conflict; addressing cross-border issues affecting children, with special attention to the West Africa region; seeking to bring those who have violated international human rights and humanitarian law to justice; working to ensure that children's rights are protected within the rules of evidence and procedure of the International Criminal Court; and encouraging the involvement of children and young people in peacemaking and peace-building efforts.

136. I am gratified that this year the Security Council, building on the more general resolution 1261(1999), has adopted another resolution (1314(2000)) on children affected by armed conflict, by which it puts in place a number of con-

crete provisions for the protection of war-affected children. I am also pleased to announce that these initiatives have led to commitments from the Governments of Burundi, Colombia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and the Sudan to protect children.

137. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) combines humanitarian and developmental strategies in providing education, health and relief and social services to approximately 3.7 million refugees in its five fields of operation: Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Arab Republic. In May 2000, the Agency commemorated 50 years of service in the field. The work of UNRWA, carried out principally by more than 20,000 dedicated local staff, has continued to produce impressive achievements, often under challenging circumstances including emergencies and conflict situations. However, serious shortfalls in funding the Agency's budget have inevitably had a negative impact on the level and standard of services. The voluntary donor contributions on which UNRWA depends must be secured and enhanced if the Agency is to meet the challenges it is sure to face in the years ahead.

138. In recognition of its unique role in promoting reproductive health and preventing sexual violence in emergency situations, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) became a full member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in April 2000. Following an assessment of the extent of sexual violence towards Kosovar women, UNFPA set up an office in Kosovo to re-establish reproductive health care and to provide counselling and services to women and their families. The guidelines in the Inter-Agency Field Manual for Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations were updated and training was provided to staff from UNFPA, other United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and national agencies in the use of the guidelines and to sensitize them to the reproductive health needs of refugees. UNFPA also participated in discussions with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on HIV prevention within peacekeeping missions. At its annual session in June 2000, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA endorsed the use of up to $1 million from special UNFPA interregional programme funds as a leveraging base from which to build appeals for extrabudgetary resources to tackle this problem.

139. An integral component of the overall planning framework of UNDP is to reduce the incidence and impact of complex emergencies and disasters—natural, environmental and technological—and to accelerate the recovery process towards sustainable human development. The main objectives in disaster reduction and recovery are to achieve a sustainable reduction in disaster risks and the protection of development gains; reduce the loss of life and livelihood due to disasters, and ensure that disaster recovery serves to consolidate sustainable human development. To achieve these goals, UNDP works through its system of country-based resident representatives, regional bureaux and specialized programmes, such as the Division for Sustainable Energy and Environment, co-sponsorship of the Global Environment Fund and the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought. The UNDP Disaster Reduction Programme, a component of its Emergency Response Division, is the focal point for ensuring that disaster reduction concerns are integrated into development strategies. A central objective of the Division is to strengthen, at all levels, the capacity of institutions to manage disasters more effectively and to promote and develop disaster reduction strategies.

140. UNICEF continued to promote the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and to advocate its universal ratification. As at 21 August 2000, the Convention has been signed by 133 countries, and ratified by 101. UNDP, in close collaboration with the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, is responsible for supporting national and local capacity-building, and addressing the socio-economic consequences of landmines. With 12 active UNDP programmes, and 5 new initiatives, the UNDP Mine Action Team, which is an advisory element of the Emergency Response Division, is responsible for policy development, policy guidance, and operational support for UNDP mine action programmes.

141. Since the phases of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development often overlap in post-conflict situations, UNDP has adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach to countries in and emerging from crisis. Humanitarian and development strategies that focus on preventing crises, mitigating their consequences and promoting sustainable recovery must be carried out in concert if they are to be effective. In order to achieve this goal, capacity-building, infrastructure rehabilitation, promotion of the rule of law, and reintegration programmes which assist displaced as well as local communities have become an integral part of UNDP activities in post-conflict situations.

142. In all countries, UNDP works through the resident coordinator system, emphasizing joint

planning, demand-driven rather than agency-driven assessments of needs and local capacities, the importance of a clearly agreed division of labour through inter-agency collaboration, and the need for more flexible financing systems for transitional programming. Every effort is made to support the central role of national authorities in the management of these processes and to engage all international actors in a common, inclusive and participatory approach.

143. Since the end of 1996 the "oil-for-food" programme, established by the Security Council and administered by the Office of the Iraq Programme, has provided a means for Iraq to sell its oil and use two thirds of the revenue to purchase, with sanctions Committee approval, humanitarian supplies and, more recently, spare parts and equipment for damaged infrastructure including the oil industry. Thirty per cent is used by the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva for war reparations. Tight limits on the value of oil sold in each 180-day phase were eased in 1998 and then lifted completely in 1999. As at the end of July 2000, Iraq had sold $32 billion worth of oil and received $8 billion worth of supplies, with another $5 billion approved and en route. Nevertheless, the people of Iraq continue to suffer from the effects of sanctions.

Protecting and assisting refugees

144. Although in global terms there was relatively little change in the number of refugees and persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between the beginning and the end of 1999 (21.5 million as against 22.3 million), it was, nevertheless, a year of major challenges. Conflicts in Kosovo, East Timor and Chechnya, Russian Federation, dominated the media and absorbed a large share of UNHCR resources, but there were many other humanitarian crises around the world, especially in Africa, that received less media attention. These disparate situations posed dilemmas and difficult decisions, not only for the United Nations refugee agency but also for the wider humanitarian community.

145. In Kosovo, the massive emergency that erupted late in March 1999, leading to the exodus of over 800,000 people, was followed 10 weeks later by one of the most spectacular reverse population movements in contemporary history, obliging humanitarian agencies to shift gears from a large-scale emergency operation to one supporting return and reintegration. The continuation of ethnic violence in Kosovo, primarily by ethnic Albanians against the Serb and Roma minorities, has frustrated one of the declared purposes of international action, namely, to preserve a multi-ethnic society in Kosovo. Against this troubled background, UNHCR is attempting to ensure a smooth transition to longer-term reconstruction, and has handed over its responsibility as head of the humanitarian "pillar" of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo to the civil administration and economic reconstruction pillars. Elsewhere in the region, the first half of 2000 has witnessed encouraging signs of minority communities returning to their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

146. The bitter conflict in East Timor led to the displacement of more than 75 per cent of the population, many of whom crossed into West Timor. Following the deployment of the Australian-led multinational force in October, thousands of refugees began to return home. UNHCR and its partners provided protection and assistance to some 160,000 refugees, including extensive reconstruction of housing in East Timor. Continuing intimidation of refugees in the camps in West Timor has required ongoing humanitarian assistance in the region.

147. The situation around Chechnya deteriorated sharply in the second half of 1999, and led to over 200,000 people fleeing into neighbouring republics, several thousand more into Georgia and others further afield to Kazakhstan. Working closely with its partners in the United Nations system, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and non-governmental organizations, UNHCR has continued to assist these internally displaced persons and refugees, despite severe operating constraints. Limited aid is also being provided to those returning to Chechnya on a voluntary basis.

148. The intensification of the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia that marked the early months of 2000 forced close to 100,000 refugees to flee from Eritrea into the Sudan, while hundreds of thousands more have been internally displaced. Since the beginning of this conflict more than two years ago, over 1 million people have abandoned their homes in both countries. With the ceasefire brokered by the Organization of African Unity in June 2000, there were hopes for lasting peace and solutions for the victims. An appeal to meet the needs of those returning was launched by UNHCR in July 2000. Meanwhile, plans are under way to resume the repatriation of other Eritrean refugees who had been residing in the Sudan for many years. The programme had been suspended owing to the renewed conflict.

149. Many other refugee movements have occurred away from the glare of the media, and the international response, particularly in support of peace, has been slow, timid and piecemeal. In the

Great Lakes region, continued fighting between Government and rebel forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, despite the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of July 1999, caused over 136,000 people to flee into neighbouring countries, with thousands of new arrivals in Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania. Heightened rebel activity in Burundi caused new movements into the United Republic of Tanzania, bringing the number of refugees from Burundi there to nearly half a million. Although the situation in the Republic of the Congo improved slightly, a further 49,000 Congolese fled to the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. Gabon was also confronted with the sudden arrival of more than 12,000 refugees from the Republic of the Congo. The list of these and other ongoing refugee situations, many of them protracted, is depressingly long. In West Africa more than 15,000 Sierra Leoneans and 8,000 Liberians fled to Guinea during 1999, bringing the total number of refugees in the country to well over 460,000. This has led to large-scale demand for humanitarian assistance with little prospect of voluntary repatriation despite the Lome Peace Agreement of May 1999.

150. The escalation of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka since March 2000 has meant that the number of internally displaced persons in the Jaffna Peninsula climbed to 170,000, giving rise to concern for the fate of civilians trapped in the conflict areas. Together with the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNHCR and its partners continue to provide emergency relief aid to those in need.

151. The most severe drought in 30 years has struck south-western Afghanistan and adjacent areas in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, further complicating the provision of assistance to refugee populations, many of whom have been awaiting an opportunity to return home for many years. On a more positive note, a joint programme with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees has been launched, allowing the return of some 29,000 persons since April 2000. The programme has now been suspended largely because of circumstances linked to the drought.

152. The challenges for the coming year remain daunting. Among the most serious of these remains the plight of internally displaced persons. The growing tendency to deny humanitarian agencies access to war-affected areas for long periods, thus exacerbating the suffering of civilian victims, is an issue of particular concern. Security poses further major challenges including the protection of refugees and refugee operations; the security of refugee-populated areas; the safety of States jeopardized by mass population movements; and the well-being of humanitarian staff. UNHCR has made a series of proposals to address these issues comprehensively, including a strategy aimed at improving security in refugee-populated areas, camps or settlements. The emphasis is increasingly on prevention. To this end, UNHCR is in the process of establishing standby arrangements with a number of Governments for the provision of public security experts to be deployed as an integral component of UNHCR emergency response teams at the beginning of a refugee crisis. In addition, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has indicated its willingness, within the limits of available resources, to evaluate situations of insecurity that pose a threat to regional peace and security, and recommend an appropriate response.

153. Another major undertaking in respect of the international protection of refugees is the reaffirmation of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees as the universal foundation of refugee protection. The fiftieth anniversary of the Convention falls next year, following that of UNHCR in December 2000. To strengthen refugee protection policies, UNHCR will soon initiate a process of global consultations with senior government representatives and refugee protection experts. A central aim will be to clarify the provisions for refugee protection in situations not fully covered by the Convention.

Chapter III

Cooperating for development

Development in a globalizing world

154. As we confront the complex and profound changes being wrought by globalization, the most important development goal of the United Nations must continue to be the elimination of poverty worldwide. The most important means to this end is the promotion of sustainable and equitable growth, which in turn requires open markets and the stable legal and regulatory institutions that markets need in order to flourish. Adequate levels of development finance are also critical; for the poorest countries that find it difficult to attract private capital, this means continued reliance on official development assistance. Effective social development policies in the areas of health, education and welfare, which are important United Nations goals in their own right, also support the growth process.

155. As we enter the new millennium, arguments over the costs and benefits of globalization have intensified. The controversies surrounding

this issue were manifested by the violent protests at the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle at the end of 1999 and by subsequent demonstrations against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington. The disquiet is evident not only in the streets, however. Concerns about the consequences of globalization pervade much of the developing world. The tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in February reflected many of these concerns. The Conference examined a range of issues central to the globalization debate and urged that the benefits of globalization be more widely shared both within and among countries.

156. During the past year I have been engaged in an intensive process of reflection on the institutional and policy implications of globalization. At a meeting held with the executive heads of key United Nations agencies last April, two challenges clearly emerged. First, how can we ensure the effective participation of all countries in the global trading system? Second, how do we integrate the advancement of our social and environmental objectives with our economic and financial strategies?

157. These critical challenges have resonated throughout the United Nations system during the past year. The Economic and Social Council, for example, has devoted priority attention to the relationship between globalization and the eradication of poverty. The special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, held in April 2000, focused on strengthening financial arrangements as well as eradicating poverty. The easing of the economic and financial crises of the late 1990s has provided a window of opportunity to consider reforms, including the reform of elements of the international financial architecture. System-wide discussion of these issues is continuing.

158. In the course of the July session of the Economic and Social Council, the need to integrate development, finance, trade and social policies more effectively was stressed, as was the need for better coordination among the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. Achieving greater policy coherence and consistency in the decisions taken by different intergovernmental forums remains a daunting task, however.

159. The discussions in the Economic and Social Council were held in the context of a global recovery from the economic crises of the previous two years. The World Economic and Social Survey 2000, produced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, highlights the prospect of solid global economic growth continuing for some years to come. The global financial system remains vulnerable to disruption, however, and many of the problems that caused or exacerbated the Asian crisis of 1997 remain unresolved. There is no room for complacency and a continuing need for reform.

Development finance

160. The high-level event on financing for development planned for 2001 will provide an opportunity to advance a range of policies to promote financial stability and crisis prevention. I attach great importance to the work of the Preparatory Committee for that meeting, which will be the first ever to involve the world's finance, trade and development organizations in a global consultation on issues of common concern. It is encouraging that the Preparatory Committee has already agreed on a broad agenda that includes the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development, trade, development assistance and debt relief.

The need for reliable statistics

161. Effective development policies require reliable statistical data, but the diverse and often inadequate statistical capacities of different countries make the task of developing standardized statistical indicators daunting. Responding to this need, the Economic and Social Council has called on international organizations to improve coordination of the production and dissemination of statistical indicators. It has also urged the need for increased statistical capacity-building at the national level. Enhancing the quality of information available to policy makers also emerged from the fifteenth meeting of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, held in May 2000, as a fundamental prerequisite for addressing the challenges of globalization.

162. In response to these requests, the United Nations is supporting capacity-building in national statistical offices, in particular in census-taking. We are also helping to strengthen statistical capacity in several subregions, including those of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Engaging with other actors

163. During recent years the United Nations has engaged in a regular dialogue with a diverse range of actors involved in the development process, particularly civil society organizations and, increasingly, the private sector. In the past year,

we have pursued a number of major initiatives with the private sector. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the agreement with major drug companies to provide HIV/AIDS drug treatments at reduced cost to developing countries are two prominent examples. The Global Compact, whose partners met for the first time late in July, is but the latest demonstration of the increasing cooperation between the United Nations, the private sector and civil society.

Improving operational performance

164. Building on my reform programme launched in 1997, the United Nations system is making steady progress in improving the coherence and effectiveness of its operations, particularly at the country level. Since May 1999, 17 countries have participated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and 38 more will take part before the end of the year. To date 37 common country assessments of national development needs have been finalized and 55 more are being prepared. Another 19 assessments are in the planning phase.

Eradication of poverty

165. While there has been considerable progress in addressing the challenges of poverty during the last decade, particular success being achieved in Asia, half of the world's population still must try to survive on less than $2 a day. Some 1.2 billion subsist on less than $1 a day. The five-year review of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development committed the international community to halving the proportion of people living on $1 a day by 2015. This commitment must now be translated into effective action. The 2015 target must be central to our collective development efforts and I call on the Millennium Assembly to endorse it and to commit the resources necessary to achieve it.

166. In July 2000, a report entitled A Better World for All: Progress towards the International Development Goals was submitted to the Group of Eight industrialized countries at their summit meeting in Okinawa. Produced at the request of the G-8, the report was the result of an unprecedented collaboration between the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank and IMF. It charts the progress made towards achieving seven interrelated international development goals set by United Nations conferences in the 1990s.

167. The report shows that, while some countries and regions have made progress, others continue to fall behind. In my letter to the G-8 forwarding the report, I called for a commitment to ensure financial stability; for policies that promote sustainable economic growth that favours the poor; for greater investment in health, education and welfare services; for greater openness to trade; for better access to markets, and for more effective dissemination of technology, together with the knowledge and the capacity to use it.

168. Greater access to resources coupled with appropriate policies ensuring that those resources are deployed to maximum effect are critical to promoting development. Above all we need a new commitment on the part of developing and industrialized countries to transform paper targets into concrete achievements.

169. External aid will continue to play an important part in supporting development, particularly in those countries that have not succeeded in attracting private capital. I have urged the G-8 countries to recommit themselves to reversing the decline in aid and to meeting the globally agreed targets of 0.7 per cent of GNP, with 0.15 per cent going to the least developed countries. I have also urged that greater efforts be made on all sides to enact the debt relief commitments already made.

170. Poverty eradication is a complex and difficult task. To help clarify what our priorities should be, a working group of the United Nations Development Group, chaired by UNDP, has prepared a proposal for a system-wide poverty reduction strategy. Practical options for country teams to implement the strategy are currently being developed.

Education

171. Girls' education is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, as I stressed in my millennium report. At my request, the United Nations Development Group has established an informal task force, chaired by UNICEF, to design a 10-year initiative on girls' education. I launched this initiative at the World Education Forum at Dakar in April.

172. The initiative puts into place a set of five strategic objectives, and will bring greater coherence to the efforts undertaken within the United Nations system to promote girls' education. It is intended primarily to support those Governments that are committed to ending the gender gap in the school system.

Health

173. Protecting and improving health standards, particularly of the poor and vulnerable, is crucial to social and economic development. Societies cannot prosper unless their people are healthy. Children cannot learn and adults cannot earn if they succumb to illness. Households are devastated when breadwinners fall ill or die prematurely. Protecting and improving health is a development issue, and is recognized as such by the World Health Organization's strategic framework on health and poverty reduction, centred on collaborative efforts with partner agencies.

174. A number of significant health initiatives are now under way, involving partnerships between United Nations agencies, the private sector and civil society. These include the Roll Back Malaria and Stop Tuberculosis campaigns, a programme to reduce maternal mortality through increased availability and use of emergency obstetric care in developing countries, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization.

Urbanization

175. Over the course of the next two decades, the global urban population will double, from 2.5 billion to 5 billion people. Almost all of the increase will be in developing countries. Understanding and managing the dynamics of urbanization and addressing issues of secure land tenure are also critical elements in any comprehensive poverty reduction policy. Two initiatives, the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance and the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, have been launched by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to address these issues. The World Bank and Habitat are building a global alliance of cities and their development programme includes the Cities without Slums action plan, whose patron is President Nelson Mandela. The aim of the programme is to improve the living conditions of 100 million slum-dwellers in the developing countries by 2020.

Working together more effectively

176. With the introduction of the poverty reduction strategy papers by the World Bank and IMF, the United Nations system as a whole is increasing its assistance to Governments that are committed to strengthening their own poverty reduction strategies. By drawing on United Nations presence and experience, and by using such tools as the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework, we can assist national Governments to improve the effectiveness of development assistance. The United Nations, the World Bank and IMF have agreed to jointly monitor the progress made in this area in 14 countries, a number expected to increase to more than 20 in the near future.

Sustainable development

177. The overriding aim of sustainable development is twofold: to meet the economic needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs also, and to protect the environment in the process. We are, unfortunately, far from meeting these goals.

178. The challenges of achieving sustainability are complex and multifaceted. As countries have struggled to work themselves out of financial crises, to restore growth and raise incomes, environmental concerns have become less salient. Our efforts are frustrated by growing environmental degradation, pollution, delays in reducing the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, the depletion of resources and the threats to biodiversity that are exacerbated by unsustainable levels of consumption in the developed world, and by poverty-induced environmental stresses in the developing world.

179. These challenges are compounded by the burden that continuing population growth is placing on the planet's physical resources. The medium scenario, long-range world population projection issued in December 1999 by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs indicates that population is likely to increase from 6 billion in 1999 to 9.7 billion in 2150, before stabilizing at just above 10 billion. Virtually all world population growth between now and 2030 will be absorbed by the urban areas of the less developed regions.

180. Within the United Nations, the Commission on Sustainable Development has been the main high-level intergovernmental forum for promoting integrated and cross-cutting proposals to achieve sustainable development. Since its establishment, and through its recent policy debates with stakeholders, the Commission has been a key forum for enhancing policy dialogue and for monitoring progress in sustainable development.

181. Of the various programme activities undertaken under the auspices of the Commission, the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests is particularly noteworthy. The Forum, which successfully concluded its fourth session in February 2000, focuses on forest issues from the perspective of sustainable forest management, looking not only at the underlying causes of deforestation but also at the trade in forest products

and the use of economic instruments for forest conservation. Looking ahead, the Forum has proposed that new international arrangements, including a United Nations Forum on Forests, be established with a view to promoting the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests and to providing a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for sustainable forest management.

182. The Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session in April and May 2000 considered a range of agricultural issues and the question of integrated planning and management of land resources. At high-level meetings, ministers of agriculture, environment, trade, economics, and development cooperation conducted a candid and in-depth dialogue on land resource problems, sustainable agriculture, trade, economic growth and globalization. These multi-stakeholder dialogues also enable representative civil society organizations and private companies to make known to government officials their perspectives on both problems and possible solutions.

183. The Commission also discussed the upcoming 10-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), stressing the need for early and effective preparations. It recommended that the General Assembly consider convening a summit-level review conference in 2002, preferably in a developing country. The 10-year review provides an important opportunity to reassess what progress has or has not been made towards meeting the ambitious targets established by the Conference. It is imperative that the international community take advantage of this event to reinvigorate the global partnerships needed to achieve sustainable development goals.

184. The inaugural Global Ministerial Environment Forum—the sixth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)—was held in Sweden in May 2000. The resulting Malmo Ministerial Declaration spelled out the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, and the role and responsibility of the private sector and of civil society in meeting those challenges in an increasingly globalized world.

185. With regard to multilateral environmental agreements, a major milestone was the successful negotiation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Protocol was adopted by more than 130 countries at Montreal in January 2000. This is the first global treaty that reaffirms, incorporates and operationalizes the precautionary principle enunciated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. It outlines procedures to deal with issues arising from the transboundary movement, transit, handling and use of genetically modified organisms that may adversely affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, or pose risks to human health and the environment. The Protocol was opened for signature at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held at Nairobi in May 2000, and was signed by 68 Governments.

186. Progress has also been made towards creating a global treaty to reduce and eliminate the use of certain persistent organic pollutants. The Protocol on Liability and Compensation to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal was adopted in December 1999. Further steps have been taken with regard to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Global International Waters Assessment. With respect to the former, a clearing house was launched at the special session of the General Assembly on small island developing States, held in September 1999, which will facilitate access to information on the issue. A strategic action plan on municipal wastewater has been developed in close collaboration with WHO, Habitat and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council.

187. Efforts continue to be made to improve Member States' understanding of the interlinkages and complementarities between environment, trade and development issues. UNEP and UNCTAD, for example, have established a task force to increase national capacity to develop mutually supportive environment and trade policies.

188. The United Nations Environment Programme has taken a leadership role in developing the environment components of the Global Compact, building on its long-standing relationship with the private sector. With the help of a grant from the United Nations Foundation, UNEP, in partnership with the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economics, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Association of Chartered Accountants, the Stockholm Environment Institute and Imperial College, London, is working to promote sustainability reporting guidelines, prepared under the Global Reporting Initiative.

189. At the regional level, a number of initiatives have been successfully implemented. For example, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has four major areas of activity, namely, the

negotiation and adoption of international legal instruments at the regional level; the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"; the promotion of sustainable quality of life in human settlements; and environmental performance reviews.

190. Instruments adopted include the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (November 1999); the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, which entered into force in April 2000; and a protocol on water and health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

191. The environmental performance reviews help to foster effective environmental management policies in countries with economies in transition. During the year, initial reviews of Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan were undertaken, as were a second review of Bulgaria and follow-up reviews of Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova and Slovenia. Reviews are also being scheduled for Romania and Uzbekistan.

192. In Latin America, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, together with UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, is supporting the work of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, established to help implement regional environmental priorities.

193. A new, joint initiative of UNDP and the European Commission on Poverty and Environment outlines a set of concrete policy options for reducing poverty while at the same time protecting the natural resource base on which the poor depend for their livelihoods.

194. Achieving sustainable development will continue to require commitment, enhanced policy dialogue, more effective cooperation within the United Nations system, and innovative and practical solutions in the field.

Social development and the advancement of women

195. In June 2000 the General Assembly held special sessions, at Geneva and New York, to conduct five-year reviews of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995), during which it reiterated the commitment to put people at the centre of development efforts.

Five-year review of the Copenhagen Summit

196. The outcome of the special session of the General Assembly held at Geneva to review the World Summit for Social Development, demonstrated that agreements can be reached on sensitive social development issues. The General Assembly supported a wide array of initiatives to reduce poverty, spur the growth of employment and promote greater inclusiveness in the decision-making process, and issued an agreement spelling out specific targets and strategies.

197. Prominent among the special session's achievements were commitments to launch a global campaign against poverty; implement debt relief arrangements; empower the poor via access to microcredit schemes; ensure access to social services even during times of financial crisis; seek new and innovative sources of development finance; encourage corporate social responsibility and combat corruption, bribery, money-laundering and the illegal transfer of funds; attack the use of tax shelters that undermine national tax systems; promote dialogue between government, labour and employer groups to achieve broad-based social progress, and promote an international strategy to increase access to employment.

198. To address problems of social exclusion and deprivation more effectively, it is vital that the resolutions adopted by United Nations conferences be followed up at the country level. National policy must benefit from the evolving international consensus on better ways of promoting human development. I recognize the importance of supporting Member States in the follow-up process, and I look forward to seeing, for example, how the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-Agency Task Force on basic social services for all, chaired by UNFPA, will take up this challenge in its new guidelines for country teams.

Five-year review of the Beijing Conference

199. At the special session held in New York, entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century", the outcome document on the review of the Fourth World Conference on Women was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly. We are gratified that the Beijing Platform for Action has been strengthened by sharpening its focus in some areas, and by encompassing new issues that have emerged or become more salient during the last five years. Notable progress was made with regard to promoting the human rights of women, the issue of violence against women, and that of trafficking in women and girls. All these issues are now being addressed in a more

holistic manner. The outcome document requests changes in legislation to remove any discriminatory provisions by 2005, and to eliminate legislative gaps that leave women and girls without effective legal protection or recourse against gender-based discrimination. It also urges Member States to sign and ratify the 1999 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, one of the greatest legislative achievements in the area of women's rights.

200. Throughout the United Nations system consistent efforts are being made to incorporate a gender perspective into the substantive work of the Organization, particularly through the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality. At the country level, United Nations teams under the leadership of the resident coordinators continue to work with national partners to address gender issues, with support from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Initiatives in over 100 countries work to support women's economic empowerment, leadership and participation in peacemaking, as well as to promote women's human rights and eliminate gender-based violence. More than half of the United Nations country teams around the world are working on joint programmes and projects on gender. Some 30 countries reported on gender advocacy initiatives. Furthermore, 17 country teams reported developing gender initiatives within the United Nations system itself.

Coping with ageing and disability

201. One of the most complex social development problems that increasing numbers of States confront is the problem of ageing populations. The International Year of Older Persons (1999) helped to advance our understanding of ageing, and its theme, "A society for all ages", was illustrated by a range of activities that focused on the situation of older persons, multigenerational relationships, and the interplay between ageing and development. During the special plenary meetings on the follow-up to the Year, held during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, many Member States noted that the commemoration of the Year provided a unique opportunity both to evaluate the impact of the demographic revolution in different societies and to develop appropriate strategies to meet the challenges presented by that revolution.

202. Promoting equal opportunities for disabled persons continues to be a high priority. During the past year, our primary concerns in this area were accessibility; employment and sustainable livelihoods; and social services and social safety nets. A number of activities were organized to explore the role of technological progress in facilitating access, especially to information, as a resource for persons with disabilities.

Drug control and crime prevention

203. The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which consists of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, has been leading the Organization's efforts to fight the spread of illicit drug cultivation and production, trafficking and abuse, transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, and corruption and money-laundering.

204. The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention has assisted in the design and realization of innovative strategies for reducing illicit drug cultivation and abuse, including the elaboration of the first ever convention against transnational organized crime and the launching of initiatives to counter money-laundering, corruption and trafficking in human beings.

205. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme is assisting several Andean countries to implement a set of national plans for reducing drug production and trafficking, including direct assistance to provide poor farmers with economically viable alternatives to illicit crop cultivation. The Programme is working increasingly in partnership with the World Bank and bilateral donors in these projects. In Asia, the Programme has helped to develop a regional plan of action for reducing drug production, as well as country-specific initiatives in Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

206. During the past year, the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention included supporting the negotiation process on the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols, on trafficking in persons, migrants and firearms. It is expected that the text will be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption during its millennium session, and heads of State are invited to join the United Nations in celebrating the first ever convention against transnational organized crime at a special signing in December, hosted at Palermo by the Government of Italy. The Centre also worked closely with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute and other international organizations to generate improved data and knowledge on transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption, and to promote appropriate responses by the international community to those problems. In March 2000, the United Nations Offshore Forum was launched. The Forum

seeks to obtain global commitments to internationally accepted anti-money-laundering standards, and to provide technical assistance where necessary to assistjurisdictions in meeting them.

HIV/AIDS

207. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has become a serious development crisis. The pandemic is destroying the economic and social fabric in the countries most affected, reversing years of declining death rates and causing dramatic rises in mortality among young adults. At the end of 1999, it is estimated that 34.3 million adults and children around the world were living with HIV/AIDS, and that 18.8 million people have died since the beginning of the epidemic. According to the latest Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, released by UNAIDS in June 2000, there were 5.4 million new infections in 1999, while the number of children orphaned by AIDS reached 13.2 million.

208. Africa south of the Sahara is the most affected region, with a total of 24.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS. In that region, AIDS is now the leading cause of mortality. HIV prevalence rates among those aged 15 to 49 have already reached or exceeded 10 per cent in 16 countries, all in sub-Saharan Africa. In Eastern Europe and in South and East Asia a rapid increase in the number of HIV infections is cause for serious concern. In the Caribbean, several island States have worse epidemics than any other countries outside sub-Saharan Africa.

209. In the last year, the United Nations has made significant efforts to help countries address these daunting challenges. In an unprecedented move, the Security Council addressed the impact of the epidemic on Africa in January 2000. Following the debate in the Council, a reference group was established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group to examine the relationship between war and civil strife and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

210. In June 1999, the international community responded to the epidemic by setting a new development target. The General Assembly, in its five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development, called for reductions in new infections by 25 per cent among 15 to 24-year-olds in the most affected countries by 2005. Twenty-four of these countries are in Africa. I call on the Millennium Summit to adopt this as a goal, and also to support the goal of ensuring that at least 90 per cent of young people have access to the necessary information, education and services to protect themselves against HIV infection by 2005, and at least 95 per cent by 2010.

211. System-wide efforts have been made to deal with the gender and drug aspects of HIV/AIDS. In an attempt to integrate gender awareness into HIV/AIDS policy and direct gender-focused research, advocacy and responses at the national and local levels, pilot programmes in nine developing countries were implemented by an inter-agency partnership between UNIFEM, UNAIDS and UNFPA. HIV/AIDS prevention activities have been increased by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as part of its worldwide drug abuse prevention programmes.

212. In collaboration with the UNAIDS secretariat and other co-sponsors, WHO is developing a global health sector strategy for improving the response of health systems to HIV/AIDS. A United Nations inter-agency task force chaired by WHO has developed a strategy for improving the access of AIDS victims to anti-AIDS drugs.

213. UNAIDS and its co-sponsors have established a close dialogue with pharmaceutical companies. As a result five companies have agreed to discuss reductions in the prices of AIDS drugs for Africa and other poor regions. This is a most welcome step, but not sufficient. As well as increasing overall drug supplies to affected regions, there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of weak and overburdened health-care systems in developing countries. To help realize this goal, WHO is developing a strategy for comprehensive care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

214. Major challenges in the fight against AIDS remain. There is a critical need for additional financial resources and development assistance. UNAIDS estimates that, to fight AIDS effectively in Africa alone, a minimum of $3 billion per year is needed. Money is by no means the only problem. In many countries official reluctance to speak out against the risks that HIV/AIDS poses is still causing unnecessary death and suffering.

Bridging the digital divide

215. Information and communication technologies provide unique opportunities to help advance economic and social development goals and to reduce poverty. As only 5 per cent of the world's population has access to the Internet, however, the vast majority of the world's peoples are denied the economic and social benefits that the information and communication technology revolution can offer. Bridging the "digital divide" between rich and poor has become an increasingly important development goal.

216. The Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its July ses-

sion makes a forceful call for concerted action at national, regional and international levels to bridge the digital divide and put information and communication technologies at the service of development for all. It stresses the need to involve all relevant stakeholders in mobilizing those technologies for development. The Council's session brought together ministers, representatives of civil society and an unprecedented number of major private sector companies from the information and communication technology sector to discuss how the digital divide might be bridged.

217. National programmes for promoting information and communication technologies should be an integral part of development strategies. Connecting poor communities to the Internet will give people access to telemedicine, distance learning and many other valuable social development resources; but achieving connectivity will require major investments in infrastructure, education and capacity-building.

218. The provision of hardware is of little use, however, unless the necessary human resources are available to install, service and repair the equipment. Such expertise is often lacking in developing countries and it was for this reason that I announced the creation of the United Nations Information Technology Service (UNITeS) in my millennium report. UNITeS, a high-tech volunteer corps, will help train communities in the developing world in the use of information technologies. Content is also a critical issue, as 80 per cent of the Internet is in English, a language which less than 30 per cent of the world speaks.

219. The commitment to bridging the digital divide is evident right across the United Nations system. In 1999, UNDP adopted a comprehensive strategy to guide its support to national partners. The key elements of the strategy are the promotion of awareness about the knowledge revolution; advocacy and policy formulation; helping to build connectivity to secure universal and affordable access to telecommunications infrastructure; developing national and human capacities; strengthening national language content; and fostering creative solutions to problems.

220. At the regional level, the Internet Initiative for Africa focuses on assisting 15 sub-Saharan countries to develop Internet connectivity and build the capacities required for their operation. In Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme helped to establish connectivity for several countries, including Bhutan, East Timor, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Tuvalu. UNDP, through its Sustainable Development Networking Programme and partnerships with the private sector, has promoted the use of open-source and public software and made available information on sustainable development in numerous languages.

221. The Sustainable Cities Programme, managed by Habitat, builds resources for computer hardware and software into the budget of every city demonstration project it undertakes. Habitat has also developed an Internet-based networking system that electronically connects over 1,000 municipalities and 1,500 community-based organizations in Latin America.

222. In its policy and advocacy work, through training and seminars, UNCTAD has vigorously promoted e-commerce as a development tool. The UNCTAD Reference Service, for example, has created an "e-bookshelf" on trade and development issues with material obtained from a large number of sources worldwide, and it is currently creating a virtual library of its own documents and publications.

223. UNCTAD also continued to implement its Automated System for Customs Data, which uses information technologies to modernize and simplify customs procedures, to increase government revenue and to improve the transparency of customs administrations. Used by over 80 countries, this system has become the de facto international standard for customs modernization, and is available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition at a fraction of the cost of alternative systems.

224. The regional commissions actively promoted information and communication technologies in their regions in 1999. The Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the European Electronic Messaging Association, held a two-day Forum on E-Commerce for Transition Economies in the Digital Age at Geneva in June 2000. The ECE Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development will establish a team of specialists on Internet enterprise development to promote the free flow of information and exploit the business potential of new technologies. ECE and UNCTAD are collaborating on a programme to promote electronic commerce for the transition economies.

225. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has undertaken analyses of recent trends in the development and application of information technologies and their impact on the social and economic development of countries in the region.

226. The theme of the first African Development Forum, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and held at Addis Ababa in October 1999, was "The challenge to Africa of globalization and the information age". Programmes initiated by the participants at that con-

ference include NGOnet Africa (an action group to engage civil society in the promotion of information and communication technology for African development), a telecentre network, a programme to harness the digital African diaspora for African information technology development, and the formation of the Alliance for African Business, which aims to promote the development of information and communication infrastructure in Africa.

227. Information technologies can also assist the United Nations in its advocacy activities for development. The launch of NetAid in 1999 was the largest syndicated Internet broadcast ever. The NetAid web site has received more than 40 million hits and helped raise support for a number of poverty reduction projects. Initial grants for Africa and Kosovo have reached $1.7 million.

Africa

228. Africa continues to face a range of complex and extraordinarily difficult economic, health and security challenges. These are now being addressed as a matter of priority by the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as by United Nations programmes and agencies.

229. The political, economic and social challenges faced by Africa were spelled out in detail in my 1998 report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Adoption of the recommendations in that report was widely recognized as being essential if sub-Saharan Africa were to overcome the challenges it confronted and realize its extraordinary potential. In December 1998, the General Assembly established an open-ended ad hoc Working Group to monitor the implementation of those recommendations. In February 2000, the mandate of the Working Group was altered and it will now focus its work on a number of priority areas. These include poverty eradication, development finance, debt relief, HIV/AIDS, refugees and internally displaced persons and support to countries in post-conflict situations.

230. A review conducted by the Working Group reveals that major obstacles to progress remain—lack of political will, weak governance in a number of countries, armed conflict, difficulty in mobilizing financial resources, lack of adequate human resource capacity, public health issues—notably HIV/AIDS and malaria—the inappropriate structure of some economies, and limited access to technology.

231. The breadth and depth of United Nations involvement in Africa is extraordinary. It includes preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, electoral assistance, humanitarian and emergency relief, post-conflict reconstruction, environmental advice, support for Internet connectivity and economic and social development assistance.

232. The World Food Programme assisted 22 million people in Africa over the past year. Of these, 15.7 million were refugees, internally displaced persons and other persons affected by natural disasters in some 26 countries. Some 6.3 million people benefited from WFP development assistance. A total of 44 per cent of WFP operational expenditures were for sub-Saharan Africa. WFP also provided some $37.1 million in support of human resource development through basic education (early childhood development, primary education and literacy), nutrition, health and training. Together with the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), WFP is assisting 15 countries in Africa that have signed country-specific action plans to increase primary school enrolment.

233. One of Africa's greatest challenges is to protect and nurture its children. Yet the gap between what is being done and what needs be done is widening; the variety of interventions required is increasing. In war-torn countries like Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and the Sudan, for instance, UNICEF advocacy has focused attention on the special needs of children in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In natural disasters, in Madagascar and Mozambique, UNICEF was able to combine immediate relief with the longer term reopening of schools, to create the normalcy children need most in putting such sudden disruptions behind them.

234. High priority has been given to the survival of children and improvements in child and maternal health, centred on the revitalization of health systems. Efforts to improve children's access to good quality basic education, especially for girls, continue to be pursued.

235. The WHO Roll Back Malaria initiative, which was launched in Africa, is committed to halving the malaria burden by 2010. A summit of over 50 African heads of State, G-8 heads of State, development agencies and OECD health ministers, held at Abuja in April 2000, focused on the means of combating Africa's malaria problem. The initiative is a joint venture of WHO with UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and development groups, private agencies and Governments. The WHO Kick Polio out of Africa campaign, with African political support, aims to eradicate polio from Africa in this year.

236. The earlier discussion of the HIV/AIDS pandemic indicated what an extraordinary

threat it poses notjust to individuals in Africa but to the continent's overall development prospects. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for only one tenth of the global population, but it carries the burden of more than 80 per cent of AIDS-related deaths worldwide. It is in this tragic context that the Economic Commission for Africa has decided that the theme of the African Development Forum 2000 will be "AIDS: the greatest leadership challenge for Africa". The Forum, which will be held at Addis Ababa in October 2000, is being organized in collaboration with UNAIDS, the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP.

237. The International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, a major, multi-agency endeavour, is charged with intensifying efforts and mobilizing additional resources for the battle against AIDS. Six countries—Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania—have been selected for intensified action.

238. Prevention is critical to the containment of AIDS; in Africa, UNFPA is providing adolescents with greater access to youth-friendly reproductive health information, counselling and services. UNICEF has also geared many of its country programmes, particularly in eastern and southern Africa, to giving high priority to the control of HIV/AIDS.

239. The United Nations Environment Programme is working with African Governments to provide policy support and capacity-building for international negotiations. A major goal is the revitalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as the main African policy forum in the field of the environment. UNEP also hosted expert and ministerial-level consultations to facilitate the development of a common African position on the issues of desertification, climate change, biosafety, and forest protection.

240. The United Nations Environment Programme continues to support the strengthening of Africa's human, managerial and institutional capacity to address the immense environmental challenges facing the continent as well as undertaking a number of programme initiatives to protect its land, water and biological resources. UNEP is working with Habitat, for example, to implement the new Managing Water for African Cities programme, which will assist major cities to improve water supply and management.

241. Trade is critical to Africa's future. In 1999, UNCTAD continued its cooperation with WTO and the International Trade Centre, acting as lead agency in promoting trade access for African countries. UNCTAD has also strengthened its programme of technical assistance and advisory services for debt management and negotiations for African countries during the past year, extending assistance to 18 African countries. The total long-term foreign debt of those 18 African countries stood at $95 billion at the end of 1998.

Chapter IV

The international legal order and human rights

Human rights development

242. In the field of human rights, the past year has been one of consolidation, progress and challenge, both within the United Nations system and at the State level. Our capacity to uphold a code of human rights continues to develop internationally and nationally. Strategies developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and the international financial institutions have been key to this progress. The Office of the High Commissioner has strengthened its relations with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, improving the effectiveness of United Nations field operations by integrating the promotion and protection of human rights with peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives. Other organizations also promoted programmes centred on human rights in 1999 and 2000. The United Nations Population Fund has followed a rights-based approach in advocating for the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls, and the United Nations Development Programme devoted its Human Development Report 2000 to human rights and human development.

New developments

243. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2000, on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights, decided to establish a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as a subsidiary organ of the Council. The Permanent Forum will serve as an advisory body to the Council on a range of issues of concern to indigenous peoples.

244. In April 2000, the Commission on Human Rights adopted two ground-breaking resolutions, on good governance and women's rights to land. In the first, the Commission identifies the key components of good governance as transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness to the needs and as-

ance to an environment conducive to the enjoyment of human rights and the promotion of growth and sustainable human development. In the second resolution the Commission affirms that discrimination in law against women with respect to acquiring and securing land, property and housing, as well as the related financing, constitutes a violation of women's human rights.

245. The Commission on Human Rights also decided to appoint two new special rapporteurs and an independent expert, and requested the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative. The special rapporteurs will serve for a three-year period. One will focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, while the other will address the right to food. Combining two old mandates, the Commission appointed an independent expert to examine the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. The Commission, further, recommended the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General to report on the situation of human rights defenders. The Economic and Social Council approved the new mandates on 16 June 2000.

246. In April 2000, the Commission on Human Rights held a special debate on poverty and the enjoyment of human rights. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, representatives of United Nations organizations and experts led the special debate with statements on poverty and human rights issues. The Commission endorsed a human-rights-based approach to poverty alleviation and development.

247. On the occasion of the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged the World Trade Organization to review international trade and investment policies and rules to ensure that they were consistent with the promotion and protection of human rights. The Committee recognized the wealth-generating potential of trade liberalization, but noted that liberalization in trade, investment and finance do not necessarily create a favourable environment for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. The Committee stated that trade liberalization is not an end in itself, but should promote human well-being within the context of existing international human rights instruments.

248. In October 1999, the General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Optional Protocol, once ratified by 10 Member States, establishes a mechanism whereby individuals or groups of individuals may submit communications, claiming to be victims of violations of rights protected under the Convention, to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. As at 21 August 2000, there were 43 signatories and 5 ratifications. In May 2000, the General Assembly also adopted two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The first concerns the involvement of children in armed conflict and prohibits the compulsory recruitment or use in hostilities of persons under 18 by Governments or non-governmental armed groups. The second Optional Protocol relates to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and reflects the General Assembly's concern about the widespread and increasing traffic in children and the continuing practice of sex tourism.

Challenges ahead

249. In spite of the positive developments in the promotion and protection of human rights over the past year, gross violations of human rights are still too common. The trafficking of women and children is a matter of grave concern. Similarly, the rights of migrants, minorities and indigenous peoples are often vulnerable to abuse, while racism and xenophobia continue to threaten the dignity, peace and security of many. In September 2001, the issues of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin will be addressed at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in South Africa.

250. The year 2000 marks the halfway point in the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, a process critical to ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world. It is vital that the momentum and progress towards the respect for human rights and the promotion of human well-being generated over the last five years be augmented and secured in the remainder of the decade.

The International Criminal Court

251. The Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court held its fourth session in March 2000 and its fifth session in June 2000. A sixth session will be held in November-December 2000.

252. In June 2000, the Preparatory Commission adopted the final draft texts of two instruments that are essential for the functioning of the Court: the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Elements of Crimes. These draft instruments

are the result of extensive negotiations held during the first five sessions of the Preparatory Commission in 1999 and 2000. They still have to be adopted by the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

253. The Rules of Procedure and Evidence regulate the composition and administration of the Court, jurisdiction and admissibility, disclosure, trial procedure, evidence and other important aspects of the Rome Statute. Special attention has been paid to rules relating to the protection of victims and witnesses.

254. The Elements of Crimes assist the Court in the interpretation and application of the definitions of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes that are contained in articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute. They contain a detailed description of the acts that constitute the most heinous crimes and represent a major contribution to the field of international criminal law.

255. At its next session, the Preparatory Commission will continue to consider the definition of the crime of aggression and how the Court shall exercise jurisdiction with respect to that crime. The Preparatory Commission will also begin considering three of the remaining items within its mandate: the draft relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Court; draft financial regulations and rules; and a draft agreement on the privileges and immunities of the Court.

256. As at 24 August 2000, 98 States had signed the Rome Statute, while 15 had ratified it. These figures are encouraging. They are, however, far short of the 60 ratifications that are needed to bring the Statute into force and enable the Court to operate.

257. By adopting the Rome Statute, States took a decisive step, showing their determination to take concrete measures to enforce the rules of international humanitarian law that have been developed over the course of the last 100 years. They displayed their resolve that those whose deeds offend the conscience of humankind should no longer go unpunished. They made known their conviction that, in the affairs of men and women of all nations, the rule of law should finally prevail. I encourage States, in that same spirit, to establish their consent to be bound by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as soon as possible.

The International Tribunals

258. In November 1999, the group of independent experts I had appointed, at the request of the General Assembly, to review all aspects of the operation and functioning of the Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia submitted its report. The Expert Group concluded that the operations and functioning of the Tribunals were reasonably effective, but made some 46 recommendations with a view to improving them. The experts cautioned however that, in view of the fundamental constraints encountered by the two Tribunals, proceedings would continue to be lengthy. In March and April 2000, the Tribunals reported that they had implemented, or were implementing, the great majority of the recommendations of the Expert Group.

International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

259. Several landmark events occurred in the past year, including the arrest in April 2000 of Momcilo Krajisnik, former President of the Bosnian Serb Assembly and the highest ranking political figure apprehended to date. Another was the trial of General Radoslav Krstic, which began in March 2000. General Krstic is alleged to be responsible for the worst massacre of civilians in Europe since the Second World War, following the fall of Srebrenica.

260. The Tribunal experienced a significant increase in the rate of arrests of indicted suspects; 10 people have been apprehended and transferred to the Tribunal's detention unit in the past year. As at August 2000, there were 37 detainees in the detention unit. Three other accused were provisionally released, pending the commencement of their trial.

261. Proceedings commenced or continued in the pre-trial, trial and appeal stages of 20 cases, involving a total of 39 accused. The Tribunal handed down decisions in four cases, involving eight accused. It convicted seven of these and handed down sentences of imprisonment ranging from 6 to 45 years—the latter being the longest sentence that the Tribunal has pronounced to date. It also found one accused not guilty of the charge against him and ordered his release.

262. The Appeals Chamber handed down decisions in two cases, rejecting the appeals of the accused in both cases and, in one case, finding the accused guilty on nine additional counts. It varied sentences pronounced by the Trial Chambers in both cases. Negotiations are under way for the transfer of the convicted persons to States which will undertake the enforcement of their sentences. The total number of States that have concluded agreements to enforce the Tribunal's sentences increased to seven: France and Spain signed agreements in February and March 2000, respectively.

263. Following the cessation of the NATO air campaign, the Prosecutor undertook intensive

investigations in Kosovo, the scale and pace of which were unprecedented. With the assistance of specialist forensic teams seconded by 14 Member States, the Prosecutor reported to the Security Council that work had been completed at 159 of 529 identified grave sites and that 2,108 bodies had been exhumed by November 1999. A second forensic programme began in April 2000 and will continue throughout the year. The Prosecutor's Office is also pursuing approximately 24 further investigations, involving crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

264. The Tribunal established regional outreach offices at Zagreb and Banja Luka, which provide accurate and timely information in local languages on the Tribunal's work so as to counter misinformation and promote understanding of the Tribunal in the region.

International Tribunal for Rwanda

265. The Tribunal continued to consolidate and expand on its achievements. The Trial Chambers handed down judgements in three cases, the Appeals Chamber in one. To date, the Tribunal has, in seven judgements, convicted a total of eight individuals. These verdicts remain the first for the crime of genocide by an international court, and set important precedents for other jurisdictions.

266. In December 1999, Trial Chamber I handed down its verdict in The Prosecutor v. Georges Rutaganda. It found the accused, a businessman and national vice-president of the Interahamwe militia, guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced him to life imprisonment. In January and June 2000, the Tribunal convicted two more individuals of genocide and crimes against humanity and of incitement to genocide, respectively. The June trial involved the first non-Rwandan convicted by the Tribunal.

267. In another trial—that of a former mayor, who was also charged with genocide and crimes against humanity—the judges visited and inspected the sites of certain of the massacres in which the accused allegedly participated. This was the first visit to Rwanda to be made by the judges acting in their judicial capacity. Several further trials are scheduled to begin in the second half of 2000.

268. In its first judgement on appeal in a case completed by a Trial Chamber, the Appeals Chamber in February 2000 dismissed the appeal of a local leader of the Interahamwe militia, who had pleaded guilty to the charges against him, and confirmed the sentence of 15 years' imprisonment handed down by Trial Chamber I.

269. As of August 2000, the Tribunal's detention facility in Arusha held a total of 43 detainees. Over the course of the past year, there were a number of arrests of individuals subject to warrants issued by the Tribunal. Belgium, France, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America transferred a total of five accused to Arusha.

270. The Tribunal implements a vigorous outreach programme in Rwanda, designed to bring its work closer to the Rwandan people and so facilitate long-term reconciliation. Its relations with the Government and people of Rwanda have greatly improved as its effectiveness in bringing to justice high-level planners and perpetrators of the 1994 genocide has become increasingly recognized.

Other tribunals

271. The Office of Legal Affairs played a central role in the discussions between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia on the establishment and operation of a special court to prosecute leaders of the Khmer Rouge. In particular, it advised the Government on drafting the necessary national legislation, and led negotiations on the conclusion of an agreement setting out the mutual obligations of the parties.

272. The Office of Legal Affairs has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing Security Council resolution 1315(2000) of 14 August 2000 on the establishment of an independent special court for Sierra Leone. Its jurisdiction will include, notably, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone. The special court will have personal jurisdiction over those most responsible for such crimes. The Office of Legal Affairs is preparing the legal instruments to implement the resolution, and discussions are under way with representatives of the Government of Sierra Leone in this regard and with Member States on the financing of the court.

Enhancing the rule of law

273. The new millennium is an appropriate occasion to reaffirm the primary objectives of our Organization and focus on them anew. Establishing the rule of law in international affairs is a central priority.

274. Treaties are one of the two main sources of international law, and I have decided to launch a campaign during the Millennium Summit to

promote the signature and ratification of, and accession to, treaties of which I am the depositary. In May 2000, I wrote to all heads of State and Government inviting them to use the opportunity of the Millennium Summit to sign and ratify, or accede to, those treaties. I encouraged them to pay special attention to a core group of 25 multilateral treaties that are representative of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and reflect the Organization's key values. A booklet, entitled Millennium Summit—Multilateral Treaty Framework: An Invitation to Universal Participation, containing that letter and a list of the core treaties that are the focus of this campaign is available. I am pleased to report that, as at 25 August 2000, 69 States have responded to my request to ratify those treaties.

275. As of August 2000, I am the depositary of 517 treaties. Many of them have a profound impact on the lives and livelihood of individuals, as they relate to questions such as human rights, refugees and stateless persons, international criminal law, commodities, trade, transportation, the sea, disarmament and the environment. Some of those treaties have been open for signature, ratification or accession for a number of years but have not yet succeeded in attracting universal participation.

276. I would remind Member States that the third objective proclaimed in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations is to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained. One of our most important tasks is to entrench the application of the rules set out in those treaties and help to sustain and enhance the values that underpin them.

277. It is not enough for States simply to give their consent to be bound by treaties. If the peoples of all nations are to participate in the emerging global legal order and enjoy its benefits, States must also respect and implement the obligations that the treaties in question embody. Realizing the promise of the framework of global norms developed by the international community is of critical importance. Without such a commitment the rule of law in international affairs will remain little more than a remote abstraction.

278. Much remains to be done; all too often, individuals and corporations find that they are denied the rights and benefits that international law and treaties provide for. Sometimes, national authorities refuse to recognize and respect their obligations under international law, even where the State has voluntarily subscribed to the relevant treaties. More often, though, such authorities simply lack the necessary expertise or resources to ensure that their obligations are properly implemented and applied—to draft and adopt the needed legislation, to put in place the necessary procedure and administrative arrangements, to train those involved in the application of such legislation, procedure and arrangements and to familiarize them with the international rules they are designed to implement. To support efforts to implement international treaty commitments we already provide Governments, on request, with assistance in drafting national laws and running training programmes in particular aspects of international law for those involved in its application, such as law enforcement officers, prison officers, social workers and immigration officers.

279. In order to build national capacities to implement treaties more effectively, I have requested every office, department, programme, fund and agency of the United Nations to review its current activities and to consider what else it might do, within its existing mandate and given existing resources, to promote the application of international law, and to provide technical assistance to help Governments implement their commitments under the treaties to which they are or might wish to become parties.

280. More generally, I have also requested all United Nations entities, not simply those immediately involved with legal issues, to indicate how they might help to increase awareness of international law, both among the public and among those involved in the application of the law, particularly legal practitioners and judges. I would also encourage the wider teaching of international law at universities and other institutions of higher education. To this end, the Legal Counsel has written to the deans of law schools throughout the world and enlisted the assistance of a team of prominent academic lawyers to provide universities with assistance in developing suitable curricula and identifying relevant teaching materials.

281. As international law develops and affects ever greater areas of daily life and business, it will also increasingly affect the laws of each country. This reality imposes a special responsibility on lawyers and on those who educate and train them. International law can no longer—if it ever could—be considered an optional extra, in which lawyers may or may not be trained. To satisfy the demands of the rule of law, lawyers need to be familiar with international law, to be schooled in its methods and know how to research it when the occasion demands.

Chapter V

Managing change

Enhancing communication

282. Broad-based, global support for the United Nations depends on timely and effective communication. In 2000, the Department of Public Information implemented a range of innovations that will increase the breadth and depth of communication about who we are, what we do and why we do it. One such initiative has been the system-wide "UN works" campaign, which explains how the Organization is addressing the main challenges of the twenty-first century, in particular those relating to economic and social development. Driving these efforts is a commitment to embrace new communications technology as a means of enhancing the impact of our activities and the productivity of our staff.

283. Use of the United Nations web site continues to increase at an extraordinary rate, the number of hits on the site now exceeding 400 million a year. Significant improvements in the web site's content and design were made in the past year and several new features in all six official languages were introduced, including live webcasts of major events. The redesign currently under way will present the same look and feel to all users in all official languages. Meeting the General Assembly's requirement to maintain the web site in all six official languages has proved a real challenge, despite the modest increase in resources allocated for web site development.

284. The Millennium Summit and Assembly provide a major opportunity for the Department to mobilize public interest in the Organization and its global role through a worldwide promotional campaign. Unprecedented media coverage has already been generated for the Summit with the publication of my millennium report and the series of teleconferenced briefings to journalists around the world that promoted it. The Department also widely promoted the Secretary-General's multilateral treaty signing initiative in connection with the Summit. In May, the Millennium Forum of civil society organizations featured simultaneous coverage by United Nations television, videoconferencing and webcasting.

285. As the number and scope of United Nations peace operations continue to rise, the need for public information and outreach in the field has risen with them. In Kosovo and East Timor, the role of public information has been critical and in new missions such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea and Sierra Leone, the Department has been fully involved from the outset. The introduction of rapid-deployment information teams on new peace missions will further strengthen the capacity of the Department to achieve its goals in the field.

286. Initiatives to build partnerships with other entities of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and the business community continue to develop through the co-sponsorship of conferences, briefings, exhibits, and events such as the World Television Forum and World AIDS Day. Contact with the 1,600 non-governmental organizations associated with the Department has been dramatically enhanced through the use of videoconferencing and live webcasting.

287. The programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries, now in its twentieth year, and the programme for Palestinian journalists continue to provide training while raising awareness of the work of the United Nations in the developing world. Other media outreach programmes took 12 senior editors and broadcasters from developing countries to Geneva for intensive briefings on human rights in December 1999, and brought 15 senior African editors and broadcasters to Headquarters in June for a week to familiarize them with the United Nations role and activities in Africa. Direct e-mail links to journalists around the world are part of another innovative project that will provide electronic alerts of breaking news from the United Nations system almost as it happens.

288. The advent of a 24-hour global news cycle has generated a number of new initiatives to increase the reporting of United Nations activities. Information and other materials are now available in real time to regional media through the web-based United Nations News Centre. Established nearly a year ago, the Centre provides United Nations news updates throughout the day. The Department's ultimate goal is the development of a fully integrated, multimedia United Nations news service, delivering news directly to media worldwide.

289. A pilot project is under way that will enable United Nations Radio to produce and deliver daily 15-minute news bulletins, in all six official languages, to radio stations around the globe. By the end of the year, the Department expects to have all United Nations Radio outputs on the United Nations web site, enabling broadcasters from around the world with Internet access to use the material at any time. The radio initiative will be replicated by the television service: news packages highlighting United Nations

system-wide developments will be disseminated daily for use by television broadcasters in 2001.

290. These are major developments, but their success will be entirely dependent on the Secretariat being able to meet the challenge of adapting to the digital revolution. The goal is to create an information technology infrastructure capable of instantaneously transmitting text, image and voice messages from the Organization to almost anywhere in the world. Major investment, including by other departments, will be needed if the United Nations is to avoid becoming marginalized in the new information environment. Investment is also needed to replace the crumbling communication infrastructure at Headquarters, much of which is 50 years old. Total failure of this communication system, which carries television and radio materials from Headquarters to the world's media, is a real threat.

291. The United Nations information centres are instrumental in bringing the United Nations messages and concerns to communities all over the world. They are the Organization's direct link with media representatives, non-governmental organizations and the public at large, and draw the attention of local communities to the work of the United Nations. Staff of the centres lead the development of national information strategies for United Nations country teams, helping to ensure that the Organization speaks with a consistent voice. Thirty-four centres already have separate web sites; others are in the planning stage.

292. The Dag Hammarskjold Library continues to focus on delivering electronic information; outreach to depository libraries; training mission, Secretariat and non-governmental organization staff in documentation and Internet use; and supporting multilingualism. The Library's web pages had 1.5 million hits in 1999, while its major databases are now installed on a web platform as UNBISNET. The programme to digitize and add to the optical disk data storage system documents of all major United Nations bodies from the Library's microfiche collection continues apace.

293. Technological change has enhanced the range and reach of one of the most traditional areas of activity, publications, and related client-specific services. The first half-century of the Yearbook ofthe United Nations will shortly be placed in electronic format as a readily retrievable resource of the Organization's history. Development Business, which focuses on business procurement opportunities in developing countries, has been revitalized by a process of constructive collaboration between the Organization and the World Bank, leading to the launch of an active, revenue-generating electronic edition of the journal. Both print and web site editions of the UN Chronicle have been revitalized—while continuing to draw eminent contributors. Africa Recovery, a journal that seeks to enhance the prospects for development and the achievement of peace and security on the continent, appeals to a broad readership, and has received increasing recognition in African media and government circles during the past year. Sales of United Nations publications have increased, with the United Nations publications web site providing a solid platform for expanding global sales.

294. The Cartographic Section plays a critical role in supporting the substantive activities of the Organization. The technical services of our cartographers are used almost daily by the Security Council, and provide crucial information for peacemaking and peacekeeping activities. In March 2000, a Geographic Information Working Group was formally established, bringing together on a regular basis all cartographic and geographic specialists across the United Nations system.

Reaching out

295. One of the most fundamental challenges facing the United Nations is coping with increased workloads without a compensatory increase in resources. Our ongoing reform programme seeks to address the resource challenge through increases in efficiency, not least through greater reliance on information technologies.

296. We have made considerable progress over the past three years in this regard, but our commitments still remain greater than the resources available to meet them and our financial difficulties are compounded by the non-payment of dues. We can do more with less, but only up to a point. It is in this context that the generosity of individual Member States, the private sector and philanthropic foundations assumes particular importance.

297. Over the years generous assistance from individual Member States has enabled United Nations bodies to embark on innovative programmes in conflict prevention, peace-building and development that would otherwise never have been funded.

298. More recent is the burgeoning co-operation between the United Nations and the private sector that I discuss earlier in the present report. The United Nations increasingly benefits from the ideas, expertise and resources that the private sector can provide. The private sector, in turn, benefits from a stronger United Nations that promotes international norms and stand-

ards, the "soft infrastructure" on which global commerce increasingly depends.

299. To ensure that public-private co-operation conforms to the priorities and rules of the United Nations, I have issued guidelines on United Nations partnerships with the business community, which may be reviewed as our experience in this area accumulates.

300. While philanthropic foundations have always given generous support to our activities, it is only in the last three years that the United Nations has benefited from a major partnership through a generous gift from Ted Turner. This has supported work on United Nations projects as diverse as the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, the creation of electricity from biomass in India and biodiversity conservation in the Galapagos. The precedent created by that donation has already encouraged others to assist the United Nations as it addresses the world's pressing problems.

301. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, created to serve as the distribution channel for Mr. Turner's gift and to promote other new partnerships, is entering its third year of operations. To date the Fund has programmed funds totalling $310 million in 112 countries, in four specific areas: children's health, women and population, environment and peace, and security and human rights. Its work in coming years will continue to focus on these areas and on priorities spelled out in my millennium report.

302. The United Nations system's own in-house research network, much of which is part of the United Nations University (UNU), produces policy-relevant research across a broad range of disciplines and subjects. At the UNU institute in Helsinki, for example, United Nations researchers are examining the relationship between information technology, poverty and economic growth; in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, the focus is on water security for the developing world; in Geneva, on restricting the proliferation of small arms; in Legon, Ghana, on natural resource management in Africa; in Reykjavik, on geothermal energy; and in Tokyo, on sustainable development and on humanitarian intervention.

303. In my reform plan of 1997, I stressed the need for the Organization to develop research and utilize its results more effectively. Since then significant efforts have been made to increase communication between those who do research in UNU and other research institutions, on the one hand, and those who use the research in the United Nations Secretariat, programmes and agencies, on the other. Making research more relevant and useful to those who create and implement policy, and making policy makers more aware of what the United Nations research community has to offer, is critically important. Furthering such a dialogue is a fundamental rationale for the annual Geneva research and policy dialogue that was inaugurated in 2000.

304. Over the past decade, civil society organizations have played an increasingly important role in helping to formulate, implement and deliver United Nations programmes, and as advocates of change. Thanks to the global reach of the Internet, which has become a powerful tool for advocacy as well as an extraordinary source of information and analysis, civil society organizations are now better placed than ever to form coalitions, organize and mobilize on a global scale.

305. During the past year civil society organizations played a vital role in the regional hearings preparatory to the Millennium Assembly. The Millennium Forum held at United Nations Headquarters in May brought together representatives from more than 1,000 civil society organizations from more than 100 countries to discuss how the United Nations should be strengthened to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Even greater numbers attended the special sessions of the General Assembly held in June in New York, to review progress since the Fourth World Conference on Women, and at Geneva, to review progress since the World Summit for Social Development.

306. The term civil society is a broad one and encompasses more than activist and advocacy groups. Some extraordinary civil society meetings are being held in the run-up to the Millennium Summit. They include a round table to launch the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the support of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, S. M. Khatami; the annual Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organization Conference; a three-day conference organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union which will bring presiding officers of parliaments from all over the world to the United Nations; and a summit of religious and spiritual leaders representing some 75 different faiths.

Administration and management

307. I am pleased to note that considerable progress has been made during the past year towards achieving my goal of creating an "organizational culture that is responsive and results-oriented". Important developments were the drafting of a human resources reform package, an information technology policy and a capital

master plan. I commend these proposals to the Member States for their approval. Their implementation will greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Organization.

Human resources reform

308. As the United Nations evolves from a Headquarters-based organization into one with a stronger field presence, the Secretariat needs to be increasingly flexible in using its human resources. The goal of the reform proposals is to modernize human resource management, to have empowered, responsible and accountable managers, and skilled, competent and well-motivated staff.

309. The reform package consists of nine building blocks, which rest on the principles of transparency, simplicity and timeliness. It proposes fundamental changes in four main areas, namely, accountability; mobility; recruitment, placement and promotion; and contractual mechanisms. Other reforms will include improvements in the use of human resource planning and performance management, the streamlining of rules and procedure, the enhancement of skills and competency development, better conditions of service, and strengthening the administration of justice.

Information technology policy

310. To ensure that the Organization keeps up with the rapid developments in information and communication technology, a United Nations information technology policy has been developed. Using in-house expertise, the policy will address both the introduction and management of new information technologies and their use as vehicles for the distribution and management of information.

311. Once the policy is implemented, senior managers will benefit from timely access to comprehensive information on policy, administrative and operational matters and from the greater overall productivity this access will generate. Member States will also benefit from enhanced support and services.

312. The information technology policy will also allow for more effective dissemination of greater amounts of information within the United Nations. Our external partners will also benefit from these changes. The United Nations broader goal of "bridging the digital divide" between the developed and the developing world will be facilitated by a Secretariat that can take greater advantage of the information and communication technology revolution.

313. In this context, the Integrated Management Information System is playing an increasingly important role in the Organization's central administrative operations, and is proving to be a powerful management tool. It will be deployed at all other major duty stations from September 2000.

314. The Integrated Management Information System has allowed significant re-engineering and standardization of administrative processes throughout the Organization. Owing to the system's internal controls and monitoring capabilities, responsibility for managing programmes has been firmly placed back in the hands of programme managers. Currently, seven organizations make use of the system, which has been implemented at 11 different sites around the world.

Capital master plan

315. The United Nations Headquarters complex in New York, despite its superb design and construction, is ageing and requires major repairs and refurbishment. The present ad hoc and reactive approach to maintenance cannot sustain our buildings in the long term and may also pose serious financial problems if costs for repair and maintenance accelerate. In the long-term capital master plan, I put forward a number of possible solutions, and propose various financing options. The plan demonstrates quite clearly that, while the costs of a major upgrade of the complex are high, they are considerably less than the resources that will have to be expended—particularly on energy—if we continue to pursue the current reactive maintenance policy.

Other challenges

316. I remain committed to improving the productivity of the Organization—that is to continuous improvement in the quality, impact and cost-effectiveness of United Nations programmes. Making staff productivity the responsibility of each manager is central to this goal.

317. Efficiency and transparency in the procurement process has increased, thanks to Internet technology that now allows a variety of procurement information to be placed in the public domain on the Procurement Division's home page.

318. The process of simplifying and streamlining the rules and procedure of the Organization has continued throughout the past year. The first phase will be completed by the end of the year and will improve management performance and accountability throughout the United Nations. We expect that rules and procedure will be

applied more consistently as information about them is transmitted more efficiently through electronic means.

319. Preparations to shift to results-based budgeting, with widespread use of performance indicators, are continuing. My programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 was the beginning of that process and included statements of expected accomplishments for all substantive areas. This new budgetary concept will be the last element to link the various components that comprise my plan to create a more results-oriented management system.

320. The greatest challenge to improving management and productivity over the last three biennia continues to be financial constraint. While the funding available to the Organization has become more stable, the level of unpaid assessments, particularly for peacekeeping activities, remains unacceptably high.

Legal affairs

321. The past year has been one of quiet accomplishment in the field of legal affairs. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) made good progress towards finalizing a draft convention on assignment in receivables financing. This will facilitate financing based on receivables and allow access by commercial entities to credit at lower rates. UNCITRAL also made progress on unifying rules on electronic signatures. In July 2000, the Commission adopted a Legislative Guide on Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects, designed to assist Governments to establish appropriate legislation to attract investment where private parties construct and operate public infrastructure facilities under a public licensing system.

322. The International Law Commission continued its work on a set of draft articles on State responsibility, with a view to their final adoption in 2001. It also reviewed the question of the jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, revisiting issues arising out of its previous work on the topic. Member States have given a very positive reception to the draft articles on nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, which the Commission adopted in July 1999. The draft articles are currently before the Sixth Committee, which is considering adopting them as a declaration of the General Assembly.

323. In December 1999, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism—the latest in a series of related conventions in this field. As at 25 August 2000, 22 States had signed the Convention, which will enter into force once ratified by 22 States. I call upon Member States to sign and ratify this very important legal instrument. Since adopting the Convention, the Ad Hoc Committee and the Sixth Committee have focused on another important instrument in this field—a convention intended to suppress acts of nuclear terrorism.

324. The General Assembly in December 1999 established a consultative process to facilitate its annual review of developments relating to the oceans and the law of the sea. The first meeting, held early in June 2000, offered an opportunity to examine this issue in some depth and to seek pragmatic solutions to the remaining problems. The General Assembly will consider the recommendations of this consultation at its fifty-fifth session.

325. The Office of Legal Affairs was also responsible for developing the legislative mechanisms for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, the first of the Organization's peacekeeping missions to exercise legislative and executive authority. The Office also drafted the basic legal framework under which those missions were to operate and administer the territories placed under their charge. The Office has provided legal support and advice to the missions from the time of their establishment, as well as to other United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Office provided particularly valuable assistance to the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process on the implementation of Security Council resolution 425(1978) and the withdrawal by Israel of its forces from Lebanon.

326. The Office of Legal Affairs successfully defended the Organization in complex arbitration proceedings involving a $50 million claim; assisted in developing comprehensive guidelines for the Organization's cooperation with the business community; aided in negotiating and drafting agreements with the private sector; supported the successful prosecution of former staff members in cases of fraud against the Organization and helped recover its assets; prevented, before United States courts, an attempt by a private entity to attach the assets in a United Nations escrow account of the "oil-for-food" programme; advised on the implementation of the oil-for-food programme; and helped to draft a new set of financial regulations for the United Nations Development Programme. The Office also continued to seek Malaysia's implementation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, of 29 April 1999, confirming the immu-

nity from legal process of a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

Project services

327. The only completely self-financing entity in the Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services works on a fee-for-service basis for United Nations bodies and other organizations around the world. Since its services may be requested on a voluntary basis, the Office must compete for business in the open services market. In 1999, it acquired new business valued at more than $1.2 billion and delivered a record $560 million in project services. These included purchasing equipment and goods, hiring consultants, contracting for services and works, and administering training. In addition, the disbursement of $196 million in loans was authorized for projects that the Office is supervising on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

328. As the proportion of new projects funded from UNDP regular resources continued to decline, the volume of services requested by non-development-oriented entities within the United Nations system increased substantially. The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, all of which used the services of the Office for Project Services for the first time in 1998, increased their use by 22 per cent in 1999. Demand for service from more traditional sources of business, such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and associated United Nations organizations based in Vienna, almost tripled during the year.

329. Responding to these new demands, the Office for Project Services has expanded its management expertise into fields beyond the development arena. In Kosovo, for example, its mine action services provided rapid support for mine clearance and related services, at the request of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the Office will work with UNDP to provide housing and electrification in the province. Responding to an initiative of member organizations of the United Nations Development Group, the Office also formulated an UNMIK programme to build up local management capacities, both public and private.

330. An agreement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research has enabled the Office for Project Services to assist local authorities in both developing and donor countries to strengthen their capacities; and it will provide specialized procurement services to UNTAET under an operational agreement currently under discussion.

331. The Office for Project Services is also developing specialized management services in support of democratization, and now has experience in over a dozen countries in this area. Acting on behalf of the Department of Political Affairs, and with funding from the European Commission, it assembled an electoral observation team in Nigeria in less than four weeks in 1999. The team monitored voting in locations right across the country.

332. To backstop project personnel in areas of concentrated demand, substantive management support units are being established. One such unit operates through the Geneva office and is focusing on the design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes fostering social and economic development at the local level, with particular emphasis on rehabilitation in post-conflict societies. A similar substantive unit focusing on public sector reform is being developed.

333. The pursuit of operational partnerships with the private sector is another new initiative of the Office for Project Services. In the spring of 2000, 12 such partnerships between the United Nations and the business sector were launched. These joint projects range from developing local economic development in Guatemala and Mozambique to stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS in Asia and making high-tech satellite imagery more affordable and accessible to United Nations agencies and others working in post-conflict rehabilitation and natural disaster prevention.

334. In a further attempt to combine private sector practices with United Nations goals, the Office for Project Services has created new contracting mechanisms for the procurement of goods and services, generating innovative partnership agreements with non-governmental organizations and developing new tools and instruments for public-private partnerships that will expand the impact of the work of the United Nations.

Accountability and oversight

335. The Office of Internal Oversight Services provides United Nations entities with reviews of their performance and guidance on their methods of work. It has become an important agent for change within the Organization, particularly with regard to strengthening internal controls and improving management performance. More and more managers within the system are seeking its advice. The independence of the Office is assured by the fact that the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight

Services serves for a single, non-renewable, five-year term.

336. The work of the Office has had a positive impact on the whole Organization. Internal oversight bodies in the specialized agencies and separately administered funds and programmes, as well as the Secretariat, are increasingly working together, sharing experiences, and benefiting from lessons learned.

Audit and management consulting

337. Last year, the Audit and Management Consulting Division placed special emphasis on peacekeeping operations, humanitarian and related activities, human resources management, procurement, problems associated with establishing new bodies, and information technology management. In addition to monetary savings, the audits resulted in improvements in the overall administration and management of the Secretariat as well as strengthening the internal control environment.

338. Audits were also conducted in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York and in most peacekeeping missions in the field. They focused on the staffing of peacekeeping missions, managing air operations and other logistical support functions, and planning and executing the liquidation of missions.

339. In response to a request from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted comprehensive audits of human rights field operations in Burundi and Rwanda and followed up with audits at the headquarters of the Office of the High Commissioner. Recommendations were made aimed at improving the Office of the High Commissioner's management of field operations and strengthening its internal control systems.

340. The Audit Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Geneva, with resident auditors at Nairobi and Abidjan, audited UNHCR field operations in 22 countries, with a focus on operations in Africa. At UNHCR headquarters, the Office of Internal Oversight Services audited support services. UNHCR implementing partners were also assessed.

Investigations

341. Work continued to ensure that the Organization's resources and staff are being used properly. For example, an important case involving the misdirection of Member States' contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme was resolved. The misappropriated funds, totalling over $700,000, were restored, and the individual responsible is facing criminal proceedings.

342. The Office of Internal Oversight Services also worked with law enforcement authorities in the criminal prosecution of a former staff member accused of defrauding the Organization of $800,000. The individual concerned was tried, convicted and sentenced to 41 months in prison, but only $110,000 of the funds stolen has been repaid to the Organization to date. Further repayments are expected, as ordered by the court.

Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit

343. The Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit prepared my report on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999, which was discussed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the spring of 2000. A qualitative assessment of programme performance found a programme implementation rate of 88 per cent, the highest this decade, which was attributed to the Organization's determination to promote managerial efficiency and accountability. In particular, the use of electronic monitoring and reporting systems was found to reduce reliance on paper-based reports, to strengthen intra-departmental discipline in performance monitoring, and to facilitate the flow of management information.

344. An inspection of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs concluded that streamlining and reorganization had enhanced its capabilities to respond to emerging humanitarian crises and strengthened its coordination role. Follow-up inspections of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) were undertaken. The Office reported that ECA had undergone profound change, with a marked improvement in the quality of its products, and a revitalized relevance to its constituents, partners (especially the Organization of African Unity) and host country. The Office of Internal Oversight Services concluded that UNEP had addressed the recommendations of my 1998 task force on UNEP and that Habitat had recaptured the confidence of its stakeholders and was moving in the right direction. In Habitat, the Office of Internal Oversight Services found a new culture emerging, one that prioritized initiative, creativity and flexibility. A backlog of unresolved problems in financial and personnel management has, however, delayed the implementation of administrative reforms.

Central Evaluation Unit

345. Two in-depth evaluations were conducted by the Central Evaluation Unit. The first examined the Department for Disarmament Affairs and found that Member States were, in general, satisfied with the support that the Department provided to multilateral disarmament bodies. An evaluation of the electoral assistance programme revealed that valuable electoral assistance was provided to a total of 68 Member States during the period 1992-1998. The Unit also conducted triennial reviews of the implementation of the recommendations made in 1996 by the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the Department of Public Information and the termination phase of peacekeeping operations.