Chapter IV

Institutional and administrative matters

In 2004, the United Nations continued to address administrative and institutional matters in order to ensure the efficient functioning of the Organization. The General Assembly resumed its fifty-eighth session and its tenth emergency special session; it opened its fifty-ninth session on 14 September. The Assembly granted observer status to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Southern African Development Community, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Economic Community of West African States, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The Assembly also set out modalities for the participation of the Holy See in UN work.

The Security Council held 216 formal meetings to deal with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and other issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Assembly again examined the question of expanding the Council’s membership.

In addition to its organizational and substantive sessions, the Economic and Social Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund) and the World Trade Organization.

The Committee on Conferences examined requests for changes to the 2004 calendar of meetings and ways of improving the use of conference services and facilities. The Assembly noted the progress in the establishment of a task force to conduct a comprehensive study of workload standards and performance measurement with a view to making a recommendation to the Assembly on a comprehensive methodology. It requested the Secretary-General to elaborate all options for resolving the issue of the time frame for the provision of summary records, and to develop further the functions of the Electronic Meetings Planning and Resource Allocation System and the electronic documentation management concept.

The Secretary-General reported on progress in the implementation of the capital master plan for refurbishing the UN complex, including the offer by the host country of a loan for that purpose and other financing options, and on collaboration between the United Nations and the city and State of New York on arrangements for providing swing space during that period. He also reported on the implementation of the unified security management system for the United Nations and its financing.

On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the item entitled “Admission of new Members to the United Nations” would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session (decision 59/552).

Institutional machinery

General Assembly

The General Assembly met throughout 2004; it resumed and concluded its fifty-eighth session and held the major part of its fifty-ninth session. The fifty-eighth session was resumed in plenary meetings on 9 and 25 February, 7-8 and 14 April, and 6 May. The fifty-ninth session opened on 14 September and continued until its suspension on 23 December.

The Assembly resumed the tenth emergency special session on 16 and 19-20 July to discuss “Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory” (see p. 465).

Organization of Assembly sessions

2004 sessions

By decision 59/501 of 14 September, the General Assembly authorized the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Disarmament Commission, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the International Research
and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) to meet during the main part of its fifty-ninth session; on 4 October, it authorized the United Nations Administrative Tribunal to do likewise.

By decision 59/502 of 17 September, the Assembly adopted a number of provisions concerning the organization of the fifty-ninth session, as recommended by the General Committee [A/59/ 250 & Add.2-3]. On 14 October, the Assembly decided to hear a statement by UNFPA’s Executive Director at the commemoration of the tenth anniversary (see p. 1028) of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development [YUN 1994, p. 955], under the agenda item on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. On 15 October, the Assembly decided to consider separately the agenda items on the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict and on the prevention of armed conflict. On 29 October, the Assembly decided to consider separately the agenda items on the situation in the Middle East and on the question of Palestine. On 10 and 20 December, the Assembly postponed the date of recess of the session to 20 and 23 December, respectively.

Credentials

The Credentials Committee, at its first meeting on 10 December [A/59/602], had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General indicating that, to date, 133 Member States had submitted the formal credentials of their representatives. During the meeting, the Legal Counsel made a statement updating the information contained in the memorandum. Information concerning the representatives of 58 other Member States had been communicated also.

The Committee adopted a resolution accepting the credentials received and recommended a draft resolution to the General Assembly for adoption. On 20 December, the Assembly, by resolution 59/208, approved the Committee’s report.

On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the report of the Credentials Committee would remain for consideration during the resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session (decision 59/552).

Agenda

During the resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session, the General Assembly, by decision 58/503 B, took a number of actions related to its agenda. It decided to reopen consideration of the agenda item on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in order to consider expeditiously a request by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines [A/58/692]; the item on support by the UN system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, in order to consider expeditiously a draft resolution [A/58/L.57 & Add.1]; and the sub-item on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in order to hold a plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. The Assembly also decided to reopen consideration of the sub-item on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to examine it directly in plenary meeting, in order to consider expeditiously a draft resolution [A/58/L.63]; it agreed to proceed immediately to consideration of the sub-item. On the Secretary-General’s proposal, the Assembly decided to include in its agenda the items on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire [A/58/235], the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti [A/58/256] and the United Nations Operation in Burundi [A/58/259], and to allocate those items to the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee. On the recommendation of the General Committee [A/58/250/Add.3-4], the Assembly decided to include in the agenda the item on the International Year of Physics, 2005, and to consider it directly in plenary meeting, and to include the sub-item on the appointment of a member of the International Civil Service Commission and allocate it to the Fifth Committee. The Assembly also decided to submit to the Assembly section II of the Secretary-General’s report [A/58/664] on the provisional agenda of the Assembly’s fifty-ninth regular session organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005; to submit to the Assembly annex I to the Secretary-General’s report [ibid.] on the draft programme of work of the plenary of the Assembly at its fifty-ninth (2004) session, as orally revised; and that the item on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields should be considered jointly with the item on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit. It further decided to consider the agenda item on the International Criminal Court directly in plenary meeting in order to consider expeditiously a draft resolution [A/58/L.68].

On 8 April, the Assembly deferred until its fifty-ninth (2004) session consideration of the
items on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, human resources management, and the Secretary-General’s report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) (decision 58/564 B); the Secretary-General’s report on the participation of United Nations Volunteers in peacekeeping operations and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) thereon (decision 58/567). On the same date, the Assembly postponed to the second part of the resumed fifty-eighth session consideration of the issue of financing the capital master plan (decision 58/566).

On 18 June, the Assembly deferred until its fifty-ninth session consideration of the items on the 2004-2005 programme budget and the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of UN peacekeeping operations (decision 58/564 C).

On 1 July, the Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided to consider the report of the World Summit on the Information Society (YUN 2003, p. 857) directly in plenary meeting at its sixtieth (2005) session (decision 58/569).

On 5 August (decision 58/571), the Assembly deferred consideration of the item on multilingualism and included it in the draft agenda of its fifty-ninth session, on the understanding that the item’s biennial character would be considered next at the sixty-first (2006) session.

On 13 September, the Assembly decided to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 56/212 on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (YUN 2004, p. 752) at its sixtieth (2005) session, instead of at its fifty-ninth (2004) session, pursuant to that resolution (decision 58/573). On the same date, the Assembly deferred consideration of, and included in the draft agenda of the fifty-ninth session, the items on: the confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (decision 58/574), improving the financial situation of the United Nations (decision 58/575), administration of justice at the United Nations (decision 58/576), the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (decision 58/577), and the financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (decision 58/578).

The Assembly took a number of actions in respect of its fifty-ninth (2004) session agenda, as listed in decision 59/503 A. On 17 September, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/59/250], it adopted the agenda [A/59/252] and allocation of agenda items [A/59/252], and deferred consideration of, and included in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth (2005) session, the items “Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte” and “Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India”. On 4 October, also on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/59/250/Add.1], the Assembly included in the agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session an additional item on observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the Assembly and allocated it to the Sixth (Legal) Committee; included in the agenda an additional sub-item on cooperation between the United Nations and the community of Portuguese-speaking countries under the item “Cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations” and decided to consider it directly in plenary meeting; and allocated to the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee the item on programme planning, with respect to programme 19 (Human rights) of the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007. On 15 October, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/59/250/Add.2], included an additional item on observer status for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in the Assembly and allocated it to the Sixth Committee. On 29 October, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/59/250/Add.3], it included in the agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session and decided to consider in plenary meeting the additional items “Andean zone of peace” and “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan”; included in the agenda and allocated to the Sixth Committee the item “Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly”; and included in the agenda an additional sub-item on the election of a member of the International Court of Justice under the item “Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs” and decided to consider it directly in plenary meeting. On 30 November, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/59/250/Add.4], included in the agenda and allocated to the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee the additional sub-item on rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas under the item “Sustainable development”.

The Assembly included in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth (2005) session the items “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia” (decision 59/513), “United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating...
nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament (decision 59/514) (see p. 536), “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus” (decision 59/515), and “Assistance in mine action” (decision 59/516).

On 23 December, the Assembly deferred until its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session consideration of the items on the 2004-2005 programme budget and the administration of justice at the United Nations (decision 59/51 A); retained 74 items for consideration during that session, including items on the election of its President and Vice-Presidents and the officers of its main committees (decision 59/552); and deferred consideration of, and included in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first (2006) session, the item on the role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order (decision 59/543).

Resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

By decision 59/509 of 8 November, the Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item “Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations” and included it in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth (2005) session.

Security Council

The Security Council held 216 formal meetings in 2004, adopted 59 resolutions and issued 48 presidential statements. It considered 51 agenda items (see APPENDIX IV). In a September note [A/58/473], the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2 of the Charter of the United Nations and with the consent of the Council, notified the General Assembly of 61 matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that the Council had discussed since his previous annual notification [YUN 2003, p. 1462]. The Secretary-General also listed 85 matters that the Council had not discussed since then. The Assembly, on 11 October, took note of the Secretary-General’s note (decision 59/505).

On 13 October, the Assembly took note of the Council’s report for the period 1 August 2003 to 31 July 2004 [A/59/2] (decision 59/506). It decided on 23 December that the item on the Council’s report would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session (decision 59/552).

Membership

The General Assembly continued to examine the question of expanding the Security Council’s membership. It considered the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council [A/58/47]. (For details and related Assembly decisions, see p. 1378).

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council held its organizational session for 2004 on 21 January, 4 to 6, 13 and 27 February, 23 April, and 1 and 4 May; a resumed organizational session on 3, 15 and 23 June; and a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 26 April, all in New York. It held its substantive session from 28 June to 23 July and resumed substantive session on 16 September and on 5 and 11 November, all in New York.

On 21 January, the Council elected its Bureau (a President and four Vice-Presidents) for 2004 (see APPENDIX III) and adopted the agenda of its organizational session [E/2004/2 & Add.1].

On 4 February, the Council approved the change in the dates of its 2004 substantive session from 6 to 30 July to 28 June to 23 July (decision 2004/202), adopted the provisional agenda (decision 2004/205) and decided on the working arrangements for that session (decision 2004/207). On 28 June, it adopted the agenda [E/2004/100 & Corr. 2] and approved the proposed programme of work of that session [E/2004/17]. On 29 June, it approved the requests for hearings from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) [E/2004/84] (decision 2004/230).

Sessions and segments

During 2004, the Economic and Social Council adopted 69 resolutions and 128 decisions. By decision 2004/205 of 4 February, the Council decided that the high-level segment of its substantive session would be held from 28 to 30 June; the coordination segment from 1 to 7 July; the operational activities segment from 7 to 9 July; the humanitarian affairs segment from 10 to 14 July; and the general segment from 15 to 22 July. By decision 2004/207 of the same date, the Council decided that its high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO would be held in New York on 26 April.
The work of the Council in 2004 was covered in its report to the General Assembly [A/59/3 & Add.1-2]. On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the item on the Council’s report would remain for consideration at its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session (decision 59/552).

2004 and 2005 sessions

On 4 February (decision 2004/206), the Council decided that the work of its 2004 operational activities segment should be devoted to the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/20 [YUN 2001, p. 784] and Council resolution 2003/3 [YUN 2003, p. 883]. On 13 February, it decided that the theme for the regional cooperation item at its 2004 substantive session should be “Information technology for development: a regional perspective” (decision 2004/213). On 3 May, it decided that the theme for the 2004 humanitarian affairs segment would be “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations: present and future challenges”, and that it would convene two panels on the themes “Strengthening preparedness and response to natural disasters, with an emphasis on capacity-building” and “Field-level coordination for the purpose of continuing the presence and operation of United Nations humanitarian assistance missions in higher risk environments” (decision 2004/219).

On 23 July, the Council, by decision 2004/294, adopted the following theme for its high-level segment in 2005: “Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities”. On the same date, it adopted the theme “Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration” for the coordination segment in 2005, and decided to continue consultations on a multi-year work programme for that segment, with a view to finalizing the programme before the beginning of the next substantive session in 2005 (decision 2004/292).

Work programme

On 4 February, the Economic and Social Council, having considered its proposed basic programme of work for 2004 and 2005 [E/2004/1 & Corr.1], took note of the list of questions for inclusion in the programme of work for 2005 (decision 2004/204).

Coordination, monitoring and cooperation

Institutional mechanisms

CEB activities

According to its annual overview report [E/2005/63], the work of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) was dominated by preparations for the comprehensive review, to take place at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in 2005, of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49]. In that context, it took up the themes of curbing transnational crime, bridging the digital divide and fostering inter-agency collaboration in information and communication technology. It continued to consider the issues of conflict prevention; strengthening system-wide support for Africa’s development and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD); and increasing the effectiveness and coherence of UN system activities at the country level. In the area of management, CEB continued to focus on staff security and safety, human and financial resources management, and UN system oversight. In response to a request by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (see below), the overview report contained information on inter-agency collaboration to fight hunger.

CEB held two regular sessions in 2004: the first in Vienna, Austria, (2-3 April) [CEB/2004/1] and the second in New York (29-30 October) [CEB/2004/2]. Its principal subsidiary bodies met as follows: the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), seventh (London, 8-9 March) [CEB/2004/3] and eighth (Rome, 5-6 October) [CEB/2004/6] sessions; the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), seventh (Beirut, Lebanon, 26-27 February) [CEB/2004/4] and eighth (Florence, Italy, 15-17 September) [CEB/2004/7] sessions, with an intersessional meeting (Frascati, Italy, 31 May and 1 June) [CEB/2004/5].

Report for 2003

The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) [A/59/16] considered CEB’s annual overview report for 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1466]. It underlined the importance of effective coordination of system-wide efforts against hunger and recommended that CEB include, in its annual overview report for 2004 (see above), information on existing mechanisms in that area and on
any further initiatives envisaged. CPC called for a further strengthening of UN system support for Africa’s development by, among other things, promoting synergies among the five inter-agency thematic clusters (infrastructure development; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; human resources development/employment and HIV/AIDS); mainstreaming HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights into all cluster activities; enhancing support for the Commission of the African Union (AU) and NEPAD; and further clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating at the regional and subregional levels in Africa. It welcomed CEB’s intention to undertake an in-depth review of UN system support for Africa’s development and NEPAD, with a view to strengthening such support. CPC supported CEB’s efforts to build a system-wide capacity for conflict prevention through comprehensive, multidimensional and country-based approaches, as well as through enhanced dialogue and improved information-sharing among the organizations concerned, and encouraged CEB to continue to pursue its efforts in that regard. It reiterated its concern over the increased threats to the safety and security of UN system staff and reaffirmed its full support for ongoing efforts to strengthen the security management system. CPC urged CEB to intensify inter-agency cooperation and exchange of information on practices in measuring programme performance and results, productivity in service functions, and on conference management. It recommended that the General Assembly revert to the issue of the establishment of the Senior Management Service at its fifty-ninth (2004) session, under the agenda item on the UN common system.


Joint Inspection Unit

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), in its annual report to the General Assembly covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2003 (A/59/34), described its process of reform which began during that year (YUN 2003, p. 1388). It discussed its reports issued in 2003, the establishment of the follow-up system for the systematic tracking of the status of JIU recommendations and the potential impact of the recommendations. JIU increased cooperation with other oversight bodies and systematically sought contacts with their representatives. (For General Assembly action on the report, see resolution 59/267 on p. 1373.)

Other coordination matters

Follow-up to international conferences

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B (YUN 2003, p. 1468), the Secretary-General submitted a report outlining the overall approach and core elements for the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (A/58/539).

In a May report (E/2004/71), the Secretary-General identified steps that had been taken to implement the provisions of resolution 57/270 B that were relevant to the work of the Economic and Social Council and focused on areas that needed further action in order to promote coordinated implementation throughout the UN system. The report contained recommendations for: a Council review of conference implementation through a cross-sectoral approach and greater
thematic unity and interlinkages between Council segments; guiding functional commissions to focus on implementation; promoting a coordinated UN system support to conference implementation; strengthening the relationship between the Council and financial and trade institutions; and complying with the specific mandates given to the Council in the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits, including the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [UN 2002, p. 821], the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development [UN 2002, p. 953], the Third (2001) United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) [UN 2001, p. 770] and the 2003 International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation [UN 2003, p. 375]. The report also discussed the Council’s contribution to the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly scheduled to take place in 2005, which would undertake a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in implementing the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration. (For further information on preparations for the 2005 high-level plenary meeting, see p. 1363.)


**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**


**Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits**

The Economic and Social Council:

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995 and 2002/1 of 26 July 2002 and its relevant resolutions on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Recalling further the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and the reviews of their implementation in the economic, social and related fields,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. **Decides** to continue to take the steps necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B, which are relevant to the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery;

2. **Welcomes** General Assembly resolution 58/298 of 6 May 2004 on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit and integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, and decides to contribute to the overall preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly in 2005, in accordance with the modalities to be set out by the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

3. **Requests**, in this regard, the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies to contribute to the preparation of the input of the Economic and Social Council to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly;

4. **Requests** the functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies to continue to examine their methods of work, as mandated in resolution 57/270 B, in order better to pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, and to submit their reports to the Council in 2005;

5. **Decides** to revise the title of agenda item 8 to read “Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B” at the next substantive session of the Council in 2005;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit a report on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2005.

**Report of Secretary-General.** An August report of the Secretary-General [A/59/224] updated information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B [UN 2003, p. 1468]. It described progress made by the intergovernmental bodies and the UN system in promoting an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of conference and summit outcomes, including the work of the Assembly and its Second and Third Committees, and made recommendations for further action in that regard.

The report was to be read in conjunction with the Secretary-General’s May report on the same subject (see p. 1450).

In February, the Economic and Social Council initiated consultations on the multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of its substantive session, based on a focused and balanced list of cross-sectoral thematic issues common to the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits. While the Council agreed on a cross-cutting theme focused on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [UN 2000, p. 51] and
made some progress towards identifying themes for the multi-year programme, the consultations could not be finalized during the 2004 substantive session, thus the Council decided to continue consultations with a view to finalizing its programme before its 2005 substantive session. As requested in resolution 57/270 B, consultations were held between the presidents of the bureaux of the Assembly and Council to improve coordination between the two bodies in the consideration of the integrated coordinated implementation of and follow-up to conference outcomes. The functional commissions continued to examine their work methods in order to better implement conference outcomes, and were required to report to the Council no later than 2005 in that regard. The regional commissions were strengthening their role in linking global deliberations with regional implementation measures, while continuing to support subregional and regional integration and consensus-building. Further action was needed to strengthen the linkage between the Council’s policy guidance and the operational activities of the UN system, in particular with regard to the coordinated implementation of conference outcomes. Under the aegis of the CEB High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), work was under way on a system-wide contribution to the first comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, to be undertaken during the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly in 2005. The bureaux of the Second and Third Committees examined various aspects of their work during the fifty-eighth (2003) session and were expected to meet again during the fifty-ninth (2004) session, and the Assembly continued to explore ways and means of improving the work of its two Committees.

The Secretary-General concluded that ensuring a coherent and coordinated approach in the implementation of policies and actions to advance poverty eradication and sustainable development was more crucial than ever, and such an approach should facilitate the forming of coherent, cross-sectoral alliances around common themes and goals for joint action at the national and international levels. The guidance given to various entities by the Assembly was serving to reinforce the efforts of those institutions for more coordination and cooperation.

On 10 September, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields should be considered jointly with the item on follow-up to the outcome of the 2000 Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 47] (decision 58/503 B).

On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session (decision 59/552).

The UN and other organizations

Requests for conversion to UN specialized agency

International Civil Defence Organization

The Economic and Social Council, by decision 2004/209 of 4 February, deferred until further notice, at the request of the International Civil Defence Organization [E/2004/6], consideration of the request for conversion of the Organization, an intergovernmental body with observer status with the Council, to a specialized agency of the UN system [YUN 2002, p. 1457].

Cooperation with organizations

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/316 (see p. 1374), the Secretary-General submitted a September consolidated report [A/59/303] on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, including the African Union (see p. 285); the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (see p. 388); the Caribbean Community (see p. 306); the Council of Europe (see p. 450); the Economic Community of Central African States (see p. 999); the League of Arab States (see p. 1454); the Organization of the Islamic Conference (see p. 1453); the Organization of American States (see p. 307); the International Organization of la Francophonie (see p. 1456); the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (see p. 451); the Pacific Islands Forum (see p. 387); the Southern African Development Community (see p. 999); the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (see p. 1348); the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (see p. 1017); the Economic Cooperation Organization (see p. 1011); the Inter-Parliamentary Union (see p. 1455); the Latin American Economic System (see p. 1026); the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (see p. 558); and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (see p. 539).
Organization of the Islamic Conference

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/42 [YUN 2002, p. 1598], the Secretary-General, in his September consolidated report [A/59/305], provided information on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Consultations at all levels continued to be held on a regular basis between the two organizations on political, economic, social and humanitarian issues, focusing on the situation in the Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Sudan, and on conflict prevention and the fight against terrorism. The general meeting to evaluate the existing mechanisms of cooperation between the United Nations and OIC (Vienna, 13-15 July) produced a number of proposals to enhance liaison and the exchange of expertise in the political field, and decided on a series of joint projects in areas including science, technology, trade, food security, agriculture, human resources development, environment, health, arts and promotion of heritage, and education. The United Nations and its institutions continued to undertake joint activities and programmes and to exchange information and documents with OIC’s specialized and affiliated institutions and subsidiary organs in support of social, economic and cultural development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 October [meeting 40], the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/8 [draft: A/59/L.12 & Add.1, orally revised] without vote [agenda item 56 (p)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

The General Assembly,
Recalling also its resolution 3369(XXX) of 10 October 1975, by which it decided to invite the Organization of the Islamic Conference to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and of its subsidiary organs in the capacity of observer,
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,
Taking into account the desire of the two organizations to continue to cooperate closely in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and scientific fields and in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and economic and social development,
Recalling the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,
Noting the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations, its funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, its subsidiary organs and its specialized and affiliated institutions,
Noting also the encouraging progress made in the ten priority areas of cooperation between the two organizations and their respective agencies and institutions, as well as in the identification of other areas of cooperation between them,
Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its organs and institutions contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,
Welcoming the results of the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, held in Vienna from 13 to 15 July 2004, and the fact that these meetings are now being held every two years, with the next one scheduled for 2006,
Noting with appreciation the determination of both organizations to strengthen further the existing cooperation by developing specific proposals in the designated priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the political field,
1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Notes with satisfaction the active participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;
3. Requests the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue to cooperate in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights, emergency relief and rehabilitation, social and economic development and technical cooperation;
4. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common concern and to review and explore innovative ways and means of enhancing the mechanisms of such cooperation;
5. Welcomes with appreciation the continuing cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the fields of peace-making, preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and notes the close cooperation between the two organizations in reconstruction and development in Afghanistan and Sierra Leone;
6. Welcomes the efforts of the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen information exchange, co-
ordination and cooperation between them in areas of mutual interest in the political field and to develop practical modalities of such cooperation;

7. Also welcomes the periodic high-level meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as between senior secretariat officials of the two organizations, and encourages their participation in important meetings of the two organizations;

8. Encourages the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in particular by negotiating cooperation agreements, and through necessary contacts and meetings of the respective focal points for cooperation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

9. Urges the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially the lead agencies, to provide increased technical and other forms of assistance to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions in order to enhance cooperation;

10. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, cultural, humanitarian and scientific fields;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference”.

League of Arab States

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/46 [YUN 2002, p. 149], the Secretary-General, in his September consolidated report [A/59/303], provided information on the continuing and multifaceted cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS). The two organizations agreed to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization in areas including the strengthening of technological capacity, development of a centre of training and excellence on industrial information and networks, and fostering a cleaner production concept in the Arab region in support of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 October [meeting 40], the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/9 [draft: A/59/135] without vote [agenda item 56 (b)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,

Recalling article 3 of the Pact of the League of Arab States, which entrusts the Council of the League with the function of determining the means whereby the League will collaborate with the international organizations which may be created in the future to guarantee peace and security and organize economic and social relations,

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate, develop and enhance further the ties existing between them in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, technical and administrative fields,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled “An Agenda for Peace”, in particular section VII, concerning cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations, and the “Supplement to an Agenda for Peace”,

Convincing of the need for more efficient and coordinated utilization of available economic and financial resources in order to promote the common objectives of the two organizations,

Recognizing the need for the further strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations for the realization of the common goals and objectives of the two organizations,

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

2. Commends the continued efforts of the League of Arab States to promote multilateral cooperation among Arab States, and requests the United Nations system to continue to lend its support;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the follow-up action taken by him to implement the proposals adopted at the meetings between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, including the sectoral meeting in 2004 on the theme “Achieving and financing the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development for the members of the League of Arab States”;

4. Requests the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, to intensify further their cooperation for the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, economic and social development, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests and objectives of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields;

6. Calls upon the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system:
   (a) To continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and among themselves, as well as with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation in all fields between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;
   (b) To strengthen the capacity of the League of Arab States and of its institutions and specialized organizations to benefit from globalization and information technology and to meet the development challenges of the new millennium;
   (c) To step up cooperation and coordination with the specialized organizations of the League of Arab States in the organization of seminars and training courses and in the preparation of studies;
   (d) To maintain and increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned regarding projects and programmes in order to facilitate their implementation;
   (e) To participate whenever possible with organizations and institutions of the League of Arab States in the execution and implementation of development projects in the Arab region;
   (f) To inform the Secretary-General of the progress made in their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations and, in particular, of the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the previous meetings between the two organizations;

7. Calls upon the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to increase their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in the priority sectors of energy, rural development, desertification and green belts, training and vocational education, technology, environment, information and documentation, trade and finance, water resources, development of the agricultural sector, empowerment of women, transport, communications and information, promotion of the role of the private sector and capacity-building;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to encourage periodic consultation between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in order to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation of, and follow-up action on, the multilateral projects, proposals and recommendations adopted at the meetings between the two organizations;

9. Recommends that the United Nations and all organizations of the United Nations system make the greatest possible use of Arab institutions and technical expertise in projects undertaken in the Arab region;

10. Reaffirms that, in order to enhance cooperation and for the purpose of the review and appraisal of progress, a general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should be held once every two years and that joint inter-agency sectoral meetings should also be convened on a biennial basis to address priority areas of major importance to the development of Arab States, on the basis of agreement between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

11. Also reaffirms the importance of holding the next general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations during 2005;

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

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States".

**Inter-Parliamentary Union**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/47 [YUN 2002, p. 1441], the Secretary-General, in his September consolidated report [A/59/305], detailed the growing cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in bringing a parliamentary dimension to UN work, including in the areas of peace and security, economic and social development, humanitarian affairs and crisis management, international law and human rights, democracy and gender issues. The report also addressed institutional efforts aimed at strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and IPU. The Secretary-General acknowledged IPU’s contribution to meeting the major goals and objectives of the international community and welcomed the decision to hold, in August 2005, the Second Conference of Speakers of Parliaments, with a special focus on the contribution by parliaments in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 31], and on action and modalities to enhance the parliamentary dimension of international cooperation. He also looked forward to discussing the recommendations of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations [A/59/87 & Corr.1] (see p. 1360) on engaging parliamentarians, parliaments and IPU more systematically in UN work.
On 8 November [meeting 50], the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/19 [draft: A/59/L.5/Rev.2 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 56 (j)].

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 1 September 2004, which takes stock of the broad cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the activities undertaken by the organization over the past two years in support of the United Nations,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations as a regular feature of the programme of events held at United Nations Headquarters on the occasion of the sessions of the General Assembly,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996, which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights, and democracy and gender issues,

Also recalling its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolution 57/47 of 21 November 2002,

Taking note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations in regard to engaging parliamentarians more systematically in the work of the United Nations,

1. Welcomes the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide for a greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the United Nations;

2. Welcomes with satisfaction the decision to convene the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at United Nations Headquarters in September 2005, in follow-up to the first such conference held in New York in 2000 in conjunction with the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations;

3. Calls upon the host country to extend the usual courtesies to participants of all parliamentary delegations of States Members of the United Nations at the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament;

4. Takes note of the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to consult parliamentarians on the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons in regard to engaging parliamentarians more systematically in the work of the United Nations, and looks forward to learning of the outcome of this process as a contribution to the deliberations of the General Assembly prior to a final decision on the recommendations of the Panel in regard to parliamentarians;

5. Encourages the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to cooperate closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, international law, human rights, and democracy and gender issues, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union”.

**International Organization of la Francophonie**

In response to resolution 57/43 [YUN 2002, p. 1442], the Secretary-General, in his September consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations [A/59/305], provided information on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF). A meeting held in New York in November 2003 between the UN Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of OIF led to strengthened collaboration between the two organizations in areas of common interest, including international peace and security. The report also covered cooperative activities in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention, elections, technical assistance, the rights of the child, human rights and education.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 November [meeting 50], the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/22 [draft: A/59/L.19 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 56 (j)].

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie**

The General Assembly,


Considering that the International Organization of la Francophonie brings together a considerable number of States Members of the United Nations, among which it promotes multilateral cooperation in areas of interest to the United Nations,

**Bearing in mind** the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations which encourage the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations through regional cooperation,

**Bearing in mind** also that, according to its charter, the objectives of the International Organization of la Francophonie are to assist in the establishment and development of democracy, the prevention of conflicts and support for the rule of law and for human rights, the intensification of dialogue between cultures and civilizations, the establishment of closer ties among
peoples through mutual knowledge and strengthening of their solidarity through multilateral cooperation activities with a view to promoting the growth of their economies,

Welcoming the steps taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie to strengthen its ties with the organizations of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations with a view to attaining its objectives,

Noting with satisfaction the commitment to multilateral cooperation in the search for solutions to the major international problems expressed by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language, at their ninth summit conference, held in Beirut from 18 to 20 October 2002, and their determination to extend the scope of francophone collaboration and cooperation in order to fight poverty and contribute to the emergence of a more equitable form of globalization that will bring progress, peace, democracy and human rights, in full respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, in the interests of the most vulnerable populations and the development of all countries,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 57/43,

Noting with satisfaction the substantial progress achieved in cooperation between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and programmes and the International Organization of la Francophonie,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie serves the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the desire of the two organizations to consolidate, develop and strengthen the ties that exist between them in the political, economic, social and cultural fields,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General, and welcomes the increasingly close and productive cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the International Organization of la Francophonie participates actively in the work of the United Nations, to which it makes a valuable contribution;

3. Notes with great satisfaction the initiatives taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie in the areas of conflict prevention, the promotion of peace and support for democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and commends it on the genuine contribution it makes, in cooperation with the United Nations, in Haiti, the Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic;

4. Welcomes the initiation of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, with the participation of other regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, in the fields of early warning and conflict prevention, and encourages the pursuit of this initiative with a view to formulating practical recommendations to facilitate the establishment of relevant operational mechanisms, where necessary;

5. Expresses its gratitude to the International Organization of la Francophonie for the steps it has taken in recent years to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations;

6. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie for their sustained efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two organizations, thereby serving their mutual interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

7. Welcomes the fact that the tenth summit conference of la Francophonie was devoted to solidarity for sustainable development, and calls upon the specialized agencies and the funds and programmes of the United Nations system to enhance their cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of sustainable development;

8. Also welcomes the involvement of the countries that use French as a common language, particularly through the International Organization of la Francophonie, in the preparation for, conduct of and follow-up to international conferences organized under United Nations auspices.

9. Commends the high-level meetings held periodically between the United Nations Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Organization of la Francophonie, and advocates the participation of those Secretariats in major meetings of the two organizations;

10. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for including the International Organization of la Francophonie in the periodic meetings he holds with heads of regional organizations, and invites him to continue doing so, taking into account the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in conflict prevention and support for democracy and the rule of law;

11. Notes with satisfaction the continued collaboration between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of electoral monitoring and assistance, and advocates the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in that area;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, to encourage the holding of periodic meetings between representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of the Secretary of the International Organization of la Francophonie in order to promote the exchange of information, coordination of activities and identification of new areas of cooperation;

13. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary steps, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, to continue to promote cooperation between the two organizations;

14. Invites the specialized agencies and funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to collaborate to this end with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie by identifying new synergies in favour of development, in particular in the areas of
poverty elimination, energy, sustainable development, education, training and the development of new information technologies;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie”.

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

In a 26 August letter to the General Assembly President [A/59/231], the eight member States of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP)—Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Timor-Leste, and Sao Tome and Principe—requested the inclusion of an item on cooperation between the United Nations and CPLP in the agenda of the Assembly’s fifty-ninth session, and proposed a draft resolution on the issue. CPLP, which was founded in 1996, bringing together 240 million people of four continents, became a UN observer in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 1360]. It devoted special attention to the political situation in Guinea-Bissau (see p. 223) through multilateralism and cooperation with the United Nations. CPLP sought to formalize that role and broaden cooperation by contributing to development and international security.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 November [meeting 50], the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/21 [draft: A/59/L.14] without vote [agenda item 56 (ii)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/10 of 26 October 1999, by which it granted observer status to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and considered it mutually advantageous to provide for cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries,

Recalling also the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Considering that the activities of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries complement and support the work of the United Nations,

Welcoming the participation of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in the fifth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, held in New York on 29 and 30 July 2003,

1. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake consultations with the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, with a view to promoting cooperation between the secretariats of the two bodies, in particular by encouraging meetings that enable their representatives to consult one another on projects, measures and procedures that will facilitate and expand their mutual cooperation and coordination;

2. Requests the specialized agencies and other bodies and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate to this end with the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries”.

Observer status

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

On 21 February [A/59/41], China requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly’s fifty-ninth session of an item on observer status for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the Assembly. An explanatory memorandum annexed to the request stated that SCO was founded in Shanghai, China, on 15 June 2001 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. SCO’s main purposes were to strengthen mutual trust, good-neighbourliness and friendship among its members; develop effective cooperation in their political affairs, economic issues, trade, science and technology, culture, education, energy, transportation, environmental protection and other fields; work to maintain and guarantee regional peace, security and stability; and promote the creation of a new international political and economic order, with a focus on democracy and justice. SCO stated that, as an observer in the Assembly, it would take a more active part in international affairs, conduct wider cooperation with the United Nations and other organizations and countries in order to contribute to peace and security, as well as regional economic growth.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth (Legal) Committee [A/59/57], adopted resolution 59/48 without vote [agenda item 131].

Observer status for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

1. Decides to invite the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.
Southern African Development Community

On 15 August [A/59/192], the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly’s fifty-ninth session of an item on observer status for SADC in the Assembly. According to an explanatory memorandum annexed to the request, SADC was founded by a treaty signed in Windhoek, Namibia, on 17 August 1992. SADC’s main objectives were to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development in southern Africa, as well as common political values, systems and other shared values; consolidate, defend and maintain democracy, peace, security and stability; promote self-sustaining development on the basis of collective self-reliance and the interdependence of member States; achieve complementarity between national and regional strategies and programmes; promote and maximize productive employment and utilization of the region’s resources; achieve sustainable utilization of natural resources and effective protection of the environment; strengthen and consolidate the long-standing historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the region’s people; combat HIV/AIDS and other deadly and communicable diseases; ensure that poverty eradication was addressed in all SADC activities and programmes; and mainstream gender in the community-building process.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/59/38], adopted resolution 59/49 without vote [agenda item 152].

Observer status for the Southern African Development Community in the General Assembly

The General Assembly, wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,

1. Decides to invite the Southern African Development Community to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

Collective Security Treaty Organization

On 10 August [A/59/95 & Corr.1], Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan—the six member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)—requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly’s fifty-ninth session of an item on observer status for CSTO in the Assembly. An explanatory memorandum annexed to the request contained information on the founding of CSTO as a regional organization on 18 September 2003. CSTO sought to strengthen peace and international and regional security and stability, and protect collectively the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of its member States. CSTO believed that the granting of observer status would make it possible to strengthen coordination between CSTO and the United Nations and expand their mutual capacities for ensuring peace, security and cooperation on a regional and global scale.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/59/39], adopted resolution 59/50 without vote [agenda item 157].

Observer status for the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the General Assembly

The General Assembly, wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization,

1. Decides to invite the Collective Security Treaty Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

Economic Community of West African States

On 15 September [A/59/232], the States members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly’s fifty-ninth session of an item on observer status for ECOWAS in the Assembly. An explanatory memorandum stated that a treaty signed in 1975 led to the establishment of ECOWAS, which arose from the determination to accelerate the economic and social development of the States of West Africa through effective cooperation. ECOWAS had as its principal aim the integration of the region’s national economies into an economic and monetary union, for the purpose of raising the standard of living of its peoples, increasing and maintaining economic stability, fostering closer relationships among its members and contributing to the progress and development of the African continent. Over the years, ECOWAS had developed close working relations with the UN system. The ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) helped resolve civil conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Côte d’Ivoire. A regional
early-warning system and a high-level mediation organ formed part of the ECOWAS conflict-prevention mechanism in West Africa. (For more information on ECOWAS conflict-prevention and conflict-resolution activities in Africa, see PART ONE, Chapter II.)

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 2 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/59/529], adopted resolution 59/51 without vote [agenda item 159].

**Observer status for the Economic Community of West African States in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States,

1. **Decides** to invite the Economic Community of West African States to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

**Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States**

On 4 October [A/59/235], Saint Lucia requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly’s fifty-ninth session of an item on observer status for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). An explanatory memorandum annexed to the request stated that OECS was established by the 1981 Treaty of Basseterre and comprised nine members, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The main purposes of OECS were to promote cooperation, unity and solidarity among its members and defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence; assist its members in the realization of their obligations and responsibilities to the international community; achieve the fullest possible harmonization of foreign policy; and promote economic integration among its members.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 2 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/59/521], adopted resolution 59/52 without vote [agenda item 160].

**Observer status for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States,

1. **Decides** to invite the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

**South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation**

On 12 October [A/59/234], Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka—the seven member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)—requested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly’s fifty-ninth session of an item on observer status for SAARC in the Assembly. An explanatory memorandum annexed to the request provided information on SAARC’s establishment in December 1985 and its objectives, which were to promote the welfare and improve the quality of life of the peoples of South Asia; accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and realize their full potential; promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia; contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another’s problems; promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields; strengthen cooperation with other developing countries, and among States members in international forums on matters of common interests; and cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes. Poverty alleviation was the overarching goal of all SAARC activities. Granting SAARC observer status would enhance its profile in the international community and would act as an incentive to strengthen existing cooperation with UN agencies.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 2 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/59/514], adopted resolution 59/53 without vote [agenda item 162].

**Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation,

1. **Decides** to invite the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.
Participation in UN work

Holy See

On 1 July [meeting 92], the General Assembly adopted resolution 58/314 [draft: A/58/L.64] without vote [agenda item 50].

Participation of the Holy See in the work of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Holy See became a Permanent Observer State at the United Nations on 6 April 1964, and since then has always been invited to participate in the meetings of all the sessions of the General Assembly,

Recalling also that the Holy See is a party to diverse international instruments, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the Convention relating to the Privileges and Immunities of the Holy See, the Vienna Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the main disarmament treaties and the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto,

Recalling further that the Holy See enjoys membership in various United Nations subsidiary bodies, specialized agencies and international intergovernmental organizations, including the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Committee of Military Medicine,

Aware that the Holy See actively participates as an observer in many of the specialized agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Tourism Organization, as well as in the World Trade Organization, that it is a full member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a Guest of Honour in its Parliamentary Assembly, and that it participates as an observer in various other regional intergovernmental organizations, including the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the African Union, and that it is regularly invited to take part in the main meetings of the Holy See shall have the right of inscription on the list of speakers under agenda items at any plenary meeting of the General Assembly, after the last Member State inscribed on the list;

2. Without prejudice to the priority of Member States, the Holy See shall have the right of inscription on the list of speakers under agenda items at any plenary meeting of the General Assembly, after the last Member State inscribed on the list;

3. The right to have its communications relating to the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the international conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

4. The right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions being made only once by the President of the General Assembly at the start of each session of the Assembly;

5. The right to have its communications relating to the sessions and work of the General Assembly issued and circulated directly, and without intermediary, as official documents of those conferences;

6. The right to raise points of order relating to any proceedings involving the Holy See, provided that the right to raise such a point of order shall not include the right to challenge the decision of the presiding officer;

7. The right to challenge the decision of the presiding officer;

8. The right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions that make reference to the Holy See; such draft resolutions and decisions shall be put to a vote only upon request from a Member State;

9. Seating for the Holy See shall be arranged immediately after Member States and before the other observers when it participates as a non-member State.
server, with the allocation of six seats in the General Assembly Hall;

10. The Holy See shall not have the right to vote or to put forward candidates in the General Assembly.

In a 16 August note [A/58/871], the Secretary-General described the modalities, as set out in resolution 58/314 (above), through which the rights and privileges of participation of the Holy See, in its capacity as an Observer State, would be effected.

**Intergovernmental organizations**


**Non-governmental organizations**

**Committee on NGOs**

On the recommendations made by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at its 2003 resumed session [YUN 2003, p. 181], the Economic and Social Council, on 4 February, granted consultative status to 59 NGOs; placed ten others on the Roster; reclassified one from special to general consultative status and two from the Roster to special consultative status; and noted 51 quadrennial reports (decision 2004/210). It took note of the Committee’s report on its resumed 2003 session [ibid, p. 1880]; decided on the dates for the Committee’s 2004 session (see below); and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the 2004 session (decision 2004/211).

The Committee, at its 2004 regular session (New York, 10-28 May and 23 June) [E/2004/32 & Corr.1], considered 171 applications for consultative status with the Council, including those deferred from its 1998-2003 sessions. It recommended 114 NGOs for consultative status, of which 19 were recommended ad referendum, and deferred 50 applications for further consideration at a later date. The Committee did not recommend four NGOs, closed consideration of three, and closed consideration of one complaint by a Member State. It recommended reclassification for four NGOs from roster to special status and three others from special to general consultative status. The Committee took note of 42 quadrennial reports and deferred consideration of six others.

The Committee recommended five draft decisions for action by the Council, including draft decisions suspending the consultative status of two NGOs (see below), and adopted two decisions, which it brought to the Council’s attention. By the first decision, the Committee acknowledged that the one-year suspension of the organization Reporters without Borders was due to come to an end on 24 July. By the second decision, the Committee requested that the International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents submit a special report, prior to the reinstatement of its consultative status, on its activities during the three years of suspension, the fulfillment in that period of the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 [YUN 1996, p. 1360], the possible changes that had taken place in the organization and how it had overcome the reasons for its suspension.

The Committee reviewed its working methods relating to the implementation of Council resolutions 1996/31 [YUN 1996, p. 1360], including the process of NGO accreditation, and of decision 1995/304 [YUN 1995, p. 1445]. It also considered the implementation of Council decision 2001/295 [YUN 2001, p. 1377] relating to requests by those NGOs referred to in Council decision 1993/220 [YUN 1995, p. 668] to expand participation in other fields of the Council’s work. During the Committee’s consideration of the strengthening of the NGO section of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the chief of that section informed the Committee that the “Paperless Committee”, a multifunctional, electronic meeting record management and archiving system introduced on a trial basis in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 181], was adopted as a normal mode of operation by the Committee on NGOs.

Following a request by the United States, the Committee, by a roll-call vote of 10 to 4, with 5 abstentions, recommended a draft decision for action by the Council to suspend for one year the consultative status of the Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”. On 23 July, the Council, by a recorded vote of 28 to 4, with 22 abstentions, adopted the draft decision (decision 2004/306).

Following a request by Viet Nam, the Committee, by a roll-call vote of 9 to 8, with 2 abstentions, recommended a draft decision for action by the Council to suspend for three years the consultative status of the Transnational Radical Party. On 23 July, the Council, by a recorded vote of 22 to 20, with 11 abstentions, rejected the draft decision.

Also on 23 July, the Council granted special consultative status to 97 NGOs and placed 17 others on the Roster; reclassified three NGOs from special to general consultative status and four others from roster to special consultative status; and noted that the Committee had taken note of
Institutional and administrative matters

42 quadrennial reports, closed recommendation of requests by three NGOs for consultative status, decided not to grant consultative status to four, and closed the case of a complaint by a Member State against one NGO (decision 2004/305). On the same day, the Council took note of the report of the Committee on its 2004 session (decision 2004/307) and deferred until a resumed Council session action on the draft decision on the dates of the Committee’s 2005 session and provisional agenda (decision 2004/308).

On 5 November, the Council decided that the Committee’s 2005 regular session would be held from 5 to 18 January 2005 and its resumed session from 9 to 20 May 2005, and approved the provisional agenda for the Committee’s 2005 session (decision 2004/321).

Requests for hearing
On 28 May, the Committee on NGOs approved 15 NGO requests to be heard during the Council’s high-level segment and three during the coordination segment [E/2004/84].

Withdrawal of status
On 28 May, the Committee took note of the requests for withdrawal of status submitted by the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation, which informed the UN Secretariat of its dissolution, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, which informed the Secretariat that, as of 2000, it had become an office of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Conferences and meetings

Committee on Conferences
The Committee on Conferences held an organizational meeting on 25 March and its substantive session on 7, 8 and 10 September [A/59/32]. The Committee examined requests for changes to the approved calendar of conferences for 2004 [A/AC.172/2004/2] and the draft revised calendar for 2005 [A/59/130/Add.11]. On 8 September, the Committee, having considered the biennialization of the item entitled “Pattern of conferences” on the agenda of the General Assembly, recommended that the issue be referred to the Assembly in the light of the Committee’s comments. The Committee also considered the utilization of conference-serving resources and facilities, requests for exceptions to the Assembly’s limitation on meetings during Assembly sessions [YUN 1985, p. 1256], documentation and publication-related matters, translation and interpretation-related matters and information technology. (The Committee’s deliberations and recommendations on those matters are detailed in the sections below.)

The Committee approved requests from several bodies for changes to the approved calendar for 2004, and reviewed the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2005.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION
On 23 December [meeting 76], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/614], adopted resolution 59/265 without vote [agenda item 112].

Pattern of conferences

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences, the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, the comments of the Secretary-General thereon, and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,

Having also considered the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Reaffirming the provisions relevant to conference services of its resolutions on multilingualism,

I

Calendar of conferences and meetings
1. Approves the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2005, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences, taking into account the observations of the Committee, and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
2. Authorizes the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2005 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;
3. Notes with satisfaction that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B and 58/250 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;
4. Notes the outcome of the consultations between the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Committee on Sustainable Development to avoid the overlap between the sessions of the Council and the Commission, and decides to reflect the results of those consultations in the revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2005;

5. Decides that, in future, there should be an intervening period of at least two weeks after the closing of the sessions of relevant intergovernmental bodies and the beginning of the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission, and encourages such intergovernmental bodies and the Commission to closely coordinate meeting dates and programmes of work so as to avoid overlap between sessions;

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

1. Notes that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations in 2003 increased to 77 per cent, and encourages the bureaux and secretariats to meet the benchmark;

2. Requests the Committee on Conferences to continue to consult with those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure of their allocated resources of the past three sessions with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and urges the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources, with the assistance of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat, to consider changes to their programme of work, as appropriate, based on previous patterns for recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their utilization factors;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to conduct systematic follow-up regarding the utilization of conference services by those bodies that consistently underutilize their conference-servicing resources over a longer period of time in order to identify the underlying causes for their being unable to reach the benchmark;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to report in future statistics on reassignments of services to meetings both related and unrelated to the cancelling body;

5. Welcomes the efforts that are being made to improve the utilization of the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to conduct systematic follow-up regarding the utilization of conference services being made by the United Nations Office at Nairobi to attract more meetings to its facilities;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that conference management services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi are in line with other duty stations, taking into account the operational requirements of the Office, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session for its consideration;

8. Recalls its several resolutions, including resolution 57/283 B, section II.A, paragraph 9, and reaffirms that all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies shall take place in Nairobi, except as otherwise authorized by the General Assembly or the Committee on Conferences acting on its behalf, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the Assembly at its sixtieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

9. Strongly discourages any invitation to host meetings that would violate the headquarters rule, in particular for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and other United Nations centres with a low utilization level;

10. Expresses deep concern over the remaining vacancies in the interpretation and translation services, in particular at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and notes the efforts of the Secretary-General to fill the vacancies, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

11. Notes the improvements in the utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa in response to section II.A, paragraph 1, of its resolution 58/250, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible options to increase further the utilization of the conference centre;

12. Welcomes the efforts so far undertaken to increase utilization and to make more efficient use of the conference facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa, and urges the Secretary-General to sustain the marketing campaign efforts and to report on the outcome to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa establishes and develops linkages with other centres and bodies, introduces and utilizes an integrated conference management system and considers the implementation of other modern technology systems, as appropriate, for a more efficient delivery of services, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

14. Emphasizes that all duty stations shall be given adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates, and in this respect welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide the available conference-servicing management tools and best practices to all duty stations;

15. Recognizes the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met;

16. Notes with concern that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Members States that were provided with interpretation services during the reporting period from May 2003 to April 2004 decreased to 90 per cent from 92 per cent during the period from May 2002 to April 2003 for the four main duty stations;

17. Notes that, in absolute terms, the number of meetings provided with interpretation services was 10 per cent higher in the period 2003-2004 than in the period 2002-2003;

18. Recalls that meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States are provided with
interpretation services on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice:

9. Requests the Secretary-General to review the current established practice concerning the provision of interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States at Headquarters and other duty stations, with a view to improving the provision of interpretation services to those meetings;

B. Reform of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

1. Reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

2. Notes the steps taken by the Secretary-General in the implementation of the reform measures put forward in his report on the reform of the Department for Conference Services of the Department of Conference and Department of Internal Oversight Services on this issue;

3. Appreciates the efforts of the Secretary-General in providing timely and detailed information during the consideration of the item entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”;

4. Affirms that the consideration of and decisions on the revitalization of the General Assembly remain its prerogative;

5. Stresses that the participation of the Department in the revitalization of the General Assembly should focus on the timely provision of the documentation needed in order to facilitate the intergovernmental negotiation process;

6. Stresses also that future reports on the reform of the Department should concentrate only on its effort to this end;

7. Stresses further that the reform of the Department aimed at improving the quality of documents and their timely production and delivery as well as the quality of conference services provided to Member States, with a view to meeting their needs as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

8. Reiterates its request contained in section II.B, paragraph 3, of its resolution 58/250;

9. Notes the ongoing efforts towards the establishment of the integrated global management system, and decides to consider at its sixtieth session the current outcomes in the light of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on this issue;

10. Also notes the establishment by the Secretary-General of a Secretariat task force to conduct a comprehensive study of workload standards and performance measurement and the preliminary findings of the task force, and requests the Secretary-General to pursue the study of workload standards and performance measurement, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, with a view to submitting to the General Assembly a proposal for a comprehensive methodology for performance measurement and management from a full-system perspective, while also paying attention to the specificities of all the official languages and ensuring compliance with resolution 58/250;

11. Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General develop further effective measures to strengthen the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat, including the establishment of an interdepartmental mechanism to monitor the process in order to ensure the timely submission of documents for processing, and that he report comprehensively thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue the delivery of summary records, a useful and vital tool for Member States, in particular in maintaining the institutional memory of the Organization, in a more efficient and cost-effective manner in full consultation with all the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to examine the option of setting a time frame for the publication of summary records, to study the related practical and financial implications and to present a pilot project to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

14. Further requests the Secretary-General to elaborate on all options, including those set out in paragraphs 59 to 63 of his report, in accordance with legislative mandates, and to report on their practical and financial implications to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to develop further the functions of the Electronic Meetings Planning and Resource Allocation System (e-Meets) as the central tool for managing meetings to cover the entire spectrum of meeting-related activities and to continue consultations with other duty stations in order to expand its application across duty stations, or to integrate the system into other systems used in such offices;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to implement further the electronic documentation management concept (e-Doc), including the actual electronic transmission of documents through the documentation chain;

17. Further requests the Secretary-General to enhance the use of printing on demand for parliamentary documentation as a means of improving services provided to Member States, in full compliance with current legislative mandates, on the basis of experience gained and lessons learned, taking fully into account the special needs of developing countries and the views expressed by Member States, to consider the use of printing on demand for publications, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

III Documentation and publication-related matters

1. Emphasizes the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

2. Notes with concern the delay in the issuance of verbatim and summary records, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ameliorate the situation, with a view to issuing them in a timely manner;

3. Notes with deep concern that the six-week rule for the issuance of documents is not fully complied with
owing to, inter alia, the continued late submission of documents by author departments, and requests the Secretary-General to take further urgent measures to ensure strict compliance with the six-week rule for the timely issuance of documentation in view of the impact of their late issuance on the functioning of intergovernmental and expert bodies, which was acutely felt during the main part of the fifty-ninth session;

4. Notes that the rate of compliance with the page limits remains only partial and that reports not originating in the Secretariat comprise the bulk of the documents issued, and requests the Secretary-General to encourage compliance with drafting guidelines as set out in paragraph 5 of its resolution 53/208 B, to the extent possible, for such documents and to report on the matter to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

5. Recalls section III, paragraphs 25 to 28, of its resolution 57/283 B and section III, paragraph 10, of its resolution 58/286 A, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the consultations referred to in this context with a view to considering the possible broadening of the electronic distribution of documentation while maintaining the distribution of printed copies, as required, and to report on the matter to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

6. Notes with concern the violations of the rule that parliamentary documents must be distributed simultaneously in all official languages;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all official languages are followed with respect to both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System of the United Nations and the United Nations web site, in keeping with section III, paragraph 5, of resolution 55/222;

8. Notes with concern the non-compliance with rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the communication of resolutions adopted by the Assembly to Member States within fifteen days after the closure of the session;

9. Decides that the issuance of documents on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

IV

Translation and interpretation-related matters

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all official languages;

2. Notes with appreciation the continued practice of holding informational meetings with Member States to consult with them on the improvement of the language services and the intention to establish additional channels for communication on the terminology used and the quality of services rendered, and requests the Secretary-General to organize informational meetings twice a year and in a more appropriate setting, with interpretation provided on an as-available basis;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in language services, to ensure that all the language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages, taking into account their respective workloads;

4. Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General continue the efforts to explore the use of new technologies, such as computer-assisted translation, remote and off-site translation and speech recognition, in the six official languages so as to enhance further the quality and productivity of the conference services, and to keep the General Assembly informed of the introduction of any other new technology;

5. Expresses deep concern for the high level of self-revision, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

6. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in updating the workload standards, to address the question of the appropriate level of self-revision that is consistent with quality in all official languages and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make sure that terminology used in translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

8. Expresses deep concern at the high vacancy rates in interpretation and translation services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and especially the chronic difficulty in staffing the Arabic Interpretation Unit;

9. Notes with concern the sharp disparities in interpretation and translation vacancy rates between the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the other duty stations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to give greater attention to succession planning in order to fill emerging vacancies in language services in a timely manner through outreach to eligible applicants;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue conducting competitive examinations in all official languages in order to fill emerging vacancies in language services in a timely manner;

V

Information technology

1. Notes the progress achieved thus far across duty stations in integrating information technology into management and documentation-processing systems and the global approach to sharing standards, good practices and technological achievements among the conference services at all duty stations;

2. Welcomes efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Office at Nairobi to increase the sharing of standards, good practices and technological achievements with the other United Nations Offices, consistent with its operational requirements;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify the efforts to strengthen the information technology capacity at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to re-deploy existing resources, as appropriate, to meet emerging priorities and to revert to this issue, as appropriate, in the context of the regular budget for the period 2006-2007;
The Secretary-General decided to revert to the issue of biennalization of the agenda item entitled “Pattern of conferences” in the context of improving the working methods of the Fifth Committee.

Also on 23 December, the Assembly decided that the item “Pattern of conferences” would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session (decision 59/352).

Reform of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/250 [YUN 2003, p. 1486], the Secretary-General reported in July [A/59/72] on the reform of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM), focusing on the technical secretariat support and conference services provided by the Department, and the three major studies undertaken during the past year—on integrated global management, workload standards and performance management, and summary records.

The Secretary-General observed that the momentum of the reform, which was in its second year, had been maintained and was fully integrated into the Department’s daily operations. Its focus was on integrating and synchronizing the various projects envisioned at the beginning of the reform process and achieving synergy and full-system benefits by relying on management and technology. Highlighting the main achievements, the Secretary-General said that access to e- Meets, the electronic meetings management system, was provided to permanent missions in New York and UN programmes and organizations, and all servicing units outside DGACM were linked to the system. The Secretariat had also proceeded with the control and limitation of documentation by seeking reductions in the quantity, length and frequency of reports requested and by strictly enforcing page limits. The slotting mechanism for the submission of documents, part of e-Docs (the electronic documentation management system), was expanded in 2004 to cover all the pre-session documents of intergovernmental bodies. However, the mechanism was unable to cover all the documents processed by DGACM, including draft resolutions and decisions and force majeure documents, which would continue to impact on the timely issuance of documents submitted within the slotted time.

In the first of its three major studies, DGACM conducted a two-year project with the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on integrated global management of conference services. Agreement was reached on a number of issues, laying the foundation for the full implementation of a global management approach to conference services (see below).

The second study, conducted by the Task Force on Workload Standards and Performance Management, reviewed existing workload standards for conference servicing staff and the impact of the introduction of new technologies and working methods on staff performance. The Task Force feared that an exclusive emphasis on the productivity of individual staff members might obscure the more significant picture of full-system gains resulting from new technology. It noted, in particular, the case of editors, translators and interpreters, whose core functions were intellectual, and hence not amenable to automation. The Task Force believed that more work needed to be done to develop accurate performance measures to gauge the impact of changes as a result of new technology. It recommended that DGACM develop mechanisms for more systematically tracking user satisfaction of its products, and for analysing new developments and specific circumstances affecting the performance of conference servicing staff and the regular exchange of information on workload standards and performance measurement.

In its study on summary records, DGACM confirmed the high costs of providing those records in all official languages. It presented several options, such as replacing summary records with digital recordings, reducing the number of bodies entitled to summary records, concentrating précis-writing in the English Translation Service to reduce delays in the translation of summary records, restricting the length of summary records, and eliminating publishing by keeping records only in electronic versions.

The Secretary-General said that the Department would follow-up on the study on integrated global management, begin implementation of the policies and measures agreed upon, and complete the project in 2005. It would pursue the study on workload standards and performance measurement with a view to presenting to the Assembly in 2005 a proposal for a comprehensive methodology from a full-system perspective.

The Committee on Conferences [A/59/32] said that there was need for a deliberate and balanced approach to reform that took into account the characteristics of the different Headquarters
units and duty stations away from Headquarters. Innovations in technology and management should be considered from the perspective of full-system benefits, and pilot projects should be conducted over limited areas to ensure that mistakes did not negatively affect the entire system. It requested the Secretariat to pursue the delivery of summary records in a more efficient and cost-effective manner, including the options set out in the Secretary-General’s report, to study their practical and financial implications and to make recent recommendations to the Assembly in 2005 for their implementation in the form of a pilot project.

Integration of global management of conference services

OIOS report. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/250 [YUN 2003, p. 1485], the Secretary-General transmitted in July [A/59/133 & Corr.1] the OIOS report on the integration of global management of conference services. DGACM had requested OIOS to help identify ways of achieving better integration of the management of conference services at its four duty stations (New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi) and to identify possible impediments.

OIOS found that authority within DGACM for policy-making and conference management was unclear, with some official documents providing for such authority to reside centrally in New York, while others provided for it to be decentralized. As a result of that inconsistency, the Under-Secretary-General of DGACM was responsible to the Secretary-General for budgets and expenditure of all four duty stations, with little authority over how those funds were spent. Moreover, inconsistent management practices had developed across all four duty stations in such areas as budgets and expenditures, staffing, workload standards, information technology, meeting planning, documentation management, outsourcing and examinations management.

ACABQ report. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), having considered the Secretary-General’s report on DGACM reform (see p. 1467) and the OIOS report on the integration of global management of conference services (see above), noted in October [A/59/418] that an interdepartmental review group was being set up to address weaknesses in the document slotting system. ACABQ believed that more emphasis should be placed on the optimal use of allocated conference resources by measuring results achieved with available resources, and urged that the methodology for calculating the use of conference resources be revisited. It pointed out that the introduction of new technologies in DGACM had not automatically increased productivity in areas such as editing, translation and interpretation. It was concerned that measurable gains in productivity and quality had not been realized, despite the large investment in information technology (IT), and requested the Department to continue developing a practical, results-oriented IT strategy, while ensuring that the needs and experience of language staff were taken into account in the use of IT. It was of the view that DGACM should pay greater attention to succession planning by identifying suitable applicants in local markets and developing a roster of qualified candidates in all official languages. ACABQ intended to revert to the issues of succession planning and vacancies in its review of the Secretary-General’s submission on human resources management to the Assembly’s fiftieth (2004) session (see p. 1418). ACABQ was not convinced that DGACM had made sufficient efforts to raise the performance of individual staff members by linking staff training programmes to workload standards and performance management. It asked DGACM to report on the matter in the study on workload standards and performance management.

practical policies and procedures and the harmonization of the structures of all duty stations, including measures to standardize the budgetary sources of all duty stations. OIOS also recommended that DGACM promulgate mandatory reporting requirements for staff to ensure compliance with the manual of policies and procedures; that Directors General consult with the Under-Secretary-General on senior staff appointments in the four duty stations; and that DGACM consider a system of staff exchanges among duty stations. DGACM management endorsed the OIOS proposals and took action to implement many of them.
Use of conference services

The Committee on Conferences considered the Secretary-General’s August report [A/59/159], in which he discussed improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities, documentation and publication, translation and interpretation, and IT. The report also provided meeting statistics of a sample of UN bodies, statistics on conference services for meetings of regional and other groupings of Member States at the four duty stations from 1 May 2003 to 30 April 2004, and requests for meetings during the General Assembly’s fifty-ninth (2004) session. The overall utilization factor for 2003 at the four duty stations was 77 per cent, lower than the benchmark of 80 per cent but higher than the rate for the previous two years. When information was included on the number of reassignments of services to related bodies, the overall utilization was 72 per cent. The Committee welcomed the improvement in utilization of conference-servicing resources and suggested that the Secretary-General consider alternative methods for calculating the utilization factor. The Committee Chairman reported on his consultations with bodies that had consistently utilized less than the benchmark figure of their allocated resources for the previous three sessions and made proposals for improving the utilization of those bodies.

Use of regional conference facilities

Nairobi

The Committee on Conferences was informed of the steady improvement in the utilization of conference-servicing facilities at Nairobi and that the modernization of the Nairobi conference facilities was well along in the planning stage [A/59/32]. Unlike the other headquarters, Nairobi received only half of its funding from regular budget allocations, resulting in the majority of language posts, except interpreter posts, being extrabudgetary, with no career prospects. The United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) intended to address the problem in the next budget cycle. The Committee expressed concern over the high proportion of extrabudgetary funding and about security. It noted the need for new methods for attracting more meetings to Nairobi, and the competition from other conference centres in Africa.

Economic Commission for Africa

The Secretary-General, in his August report on the pattern of conferences [A/59/159], indicated that, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 58/250 [YUN 2003, p. 1486], improvements were made to increase utilization of the Conference Centre at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), including the finalization and implementation of an action plan and a marketing campaign, and teaming up with the Ethiopian Tourism Commission, Ethiopian Airlines and other players to attract internal and external clients. The Conference Centre looked to establish and develop linkages and networks with other UN conference centres and international convention centres, tourism boards, tour operators and exhibition organizers worldwide, and to introduce and utilize an integrated management system and other modern technology. However, the Centre continued to be hampered by competition from smaller conference venues in sub-Saharan Africa, lack of adequate infrastructure and logistical support in Addis Ababa, visa and immigration restrictions, and inadequate financial resources for implementing marketing programmes.

Interpretation for regional and other groupings

In August [A/59/159], the Secretary-General reported on the provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the period 1 May 2003 to 30 April 2004. The Committee on Conferences [A/59/32] noted that all requests by such groupings for meetings without interpretation services were met at the four duty stations (New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi), and that of the requests for interpretation, 90 per cent were met, a decrease from 92 per cent for the previous 12 months, but an increase of 10 per cent in the total number of such meetings.

Construction of conference facilities

Additional conference rooms at Headquarters

The Capital Master Plan (CMP) for the UN Headquarters complex in New York, introduced in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1405], had identified the possibility of creating three new mid-sized conference rooms on the first basement level of the Headquarters building. The Secretary-General submitted a report [A/58/556] on plans and options for the three conference rooms and viable solutions for allowing natural light into them, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375]. The introduction of natural lighting would increase the cost of the rooms by between $0.7 million to $1.2 million.

ACABQ, in November [A/59/556], stated that, given the current uncertainties of the financing arrangements for CMP (see p. 1473), it was prema-
ture to make a recommendation on the layout of additional conference rooms.

By decision 59/551 of 23 December, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the Secretary-General’s report until its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session.

Additional conference facilities at Vienna

The Secretary-General, reporting in December [A/C.5/59/25] on the construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre, stated that the Centre’s conference facilities were inadequate for the needs of the organizations headquartered there: the International Atomic Energy Agency; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, which had requested the host country to make additional conference facilities available. The Austrian Government offered to provide a new conference facility and signed a memorandum of understanding to that effect with the participating organizations in October. Under its terms, the new facility, of approximately 17,000 square metres, would have a ceiling cost of 52.5 million euros, of which 50 million euros would be provided by the Austrian Government and the remainder by the three organizations.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly note the approval by the Vienna-based organizations of Austria’s proposal for a new conference centre, approve the participation of the United Nations and those organizations in the proposed arrangements and entrust him with determining the cost-sharing arrangements for potential future costs.

The ACABQ Chairman, in an oral report to the Fifth Committee [meeting 31], recommended that the Assembly approve the Secretary-General’s requests, which it did in resolution 59/276 of 23 December (see p. 1383).

Documentation

In May [A/58/CRP.7], the Secretary-General submitted a note on the control and limitation of documentation, in response to General Assembly resolutions 58/126 [YUN 2003, p. 1398] and 58/250 [ibid. p. 1486], and Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 2002/1 [YUN 2002, p. 1565] on the consolidation of reports on related subjects, compliance with the guidelines on page limits, and streamlining documentation, respectively.

The note contained measures taken to comply with those requests, including guidelines issued by the Council and further steps that could be taken to limit the reports of functional commissions and subsidiary bodies to the Council. After a review of all Secretariat departments and their mandates, it was believed that a consolidation of mandates could lead to a reduction of documentation of about 25 per cent.

The Assembly, in resolution 58/316 of 1 July (see p. 1374), requested the Secretary-General to update his note on the control and limitation of documentation and to initiate implementation of resolution 57/300 [YUN 2002, p. 1553] with a view to consolidating reports on related subjects.

Official Document System

JIU report. The General Assembly considered the report [A/58/435] of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled “From the Optical Disk System to the Official Documents System (ODS): status of implementation and evaluation”, which assessed the status of implementation of ODS and identified remaining policy and management issues, which, if addressed, could help to widen its use as an archival and retrieval system of official documents for the United Nations and other interested organizations. JIU made a number recommendations for improving the system, to which the Secretary-General responded in a later report [A/58/435/Add.1]. ACABQ, in its comments [A/58/620] on the OIOS report, requested information on the financial implications of extending usage of the system.

Report of Secretary-General. Responding to Assembly resolution 58/270 [YUN 2003, p. 1399], the Secretary-General submitted a November report [A/59/578/Add.1] on progress made in implementation of ODS, reviewing the expansion of the system’s use over the past two bienniums and the improvements under way to enhance its application. The Secretary-General reported that ODS, provided free of charge, was available worldwide. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library was gradually digitizing documentation issued prior to 1993 for loading onto ODS, which was expected to be completed in early 2005. Since June, all UN offices away from Headquarters had been loading their documents, and with the expected installation of a new document loading server, offices away from Headquarters would have access to a more reliable and faster loading process. Arrangements had yet to be worked out to reflect language parity in ODS since the majority of documents archived by offices away from Headquarters were available only in the working language of the duty station or of the intergovernmental body concerned.

ACABQ, in its comments on the first performance report on the 2004-2005 programme budget [A/59/601], recommended that DGACM consider the feasibility of ensuring full parity for lan-
Guage versions of all documents posted on ODS, which the Assembly endorsed in resolution 59/276 (see p. 1393).

**Translation and interpretation matters**

**Recruitment in language services**

The Secretary-General reported in August [A/59/159] that several translation services at Headquarters continued to have relatively high vacancy rates as a result of retirements and other staff movements. While the situation at Geneva and Vienna was more stable, Nairobi's difficulties in filling translation and editorial vacancies mirrored those it faced in filling interpreters' posts. Recruitment to fill vacant posts would be speeded up, while special measures would be taken to mitigate the problems arising from the assimilation of large numbers of new staff over a relatively short period of time. In response to resolution 58/250, efforts had been made also to fill expeditiously the vacant posts in the interpretation and translation services at Nairobi.

The Committee on Conferences [A/59/32] expressed concern about the quality of translation and interpretation services, and the persistent vacancies in language service posts at Headquarters, and particularly at Nairobi.

**Informational meetings**

The Committee on Conferences [A/59/32] expressed support for holding informational meetings, organized in response to resolution 57/283 B [YUN 2003, p. 1441], to brief Member States on terminology and for consultations aimed at improving translation services. It proposed that they be held twice a year for each UN official language rather than once a year, and that interpretation services be provided on an as-available basis.

**UN information systems**

**Information and communication technology**

In September [A/59/265], the Secretary-General reported on progress in implementing the UN information and communication technology (ICT) strategy [YUN 2002, p. 1454] and on the impact of investments in ICT on the Organization's business processes. The report was made in line with General Assembly resolution 58/270 [YUN 2003, p. 1399].

The Secretariat had significantly upgraded its server and storage network infrastructures and the local area network at Headquarters. The installation of the Wi-Fi (wireless visitor network) public hotspots provided Internet access for portable devices in several areas in the Headquarters' building. To ensure security, the Organization had formally adopted the industry standard performance benchmark for security known as ISO-17799. Secretariat-wide planning activities were well under way to bring all offices into compliance with the standard and to obtain relevant certification. An ICT manual, constituting a compendium of policies, standards, procedures and plans for promoting best practices for ICT management and delivery, including security, was being prepared to comply with ISO-17799 requirements. The completed manual would become the operational guide by early 2005.

The governance of the ICT process was institutionalized by the Secretary-General [ST/SGB/2003/17] in setting up the Project Review Committee as a subsidiary body of the Information and Communications Technology Board. The Committee played a crucial role in applying the standards established by the Board, reviewing ICT initiatives and submitting recommendations on whether such initiatives should be implemented.

In terms of investments, during 2004, efforts and resources were devoted to further building the ICT infrastructure, as part of the ICT strategy. Although the aggregate figures on the positive return on those investments could not be produced, the methodology and mechanisms in place would allow the quantification of the return on investment at the individual project level.

ACABQ, in November [A/59/558], reviewed the implementation of the ICT strategy and recommended that the Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report.

**International cooperation in informatics**

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/48 [YUN 2003, p. 1494], the Secretary-General submitted a May report [E/2004/78] on international cooperation in the field of informatics, which summarized the various activities in that field as reported by the Secretariat departments and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics. Activities of the Working Group included the circulation of the booklet entitled "Internet Services for Delegates", Andorra's initiative to allow delegates to download data onto their personal digital assistants, plans for improving ODS, and upgrading personal computer facilities for delegates. As of May, the Information Technology Services Division, in its efforts to provide connectivity and Internet access to all permanent and observer missions, had donated 1,157 personal computers and printers to missions.
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 23 July [meeting 50], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2004/51 [draft: E/2004/L.28] without vote [agenda item 7 (c)].

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communication technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

Welcoming the intensification of efforts by the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management of the Secretariat to provide interconnectivity and unhindered Internet access to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations,

1. Reiterates once again the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members and observers of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services will not prejudice the access of Member States nor impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, requests the Working Group to continue its efforts in order to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Information Technology Services Division for the cooperation it extended to the Working Group in the production of the booklet entitled “Internet services for delegates” and to the Government of Andorra for its initiative on the personal digital assistant pilot project;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2005 on action taken on the follow up to the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

Other matters

Common services

Outsourcing practices

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/276 [YUN 2003, p. 1899], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on UN outsourcing practices [A/59/227]. Annexed to the report was a list of outsourced activities in 2002-2003, specifying the location and type of each activity and reasons for outsourcing, with the reported savings where outsourcing was initiated with that aim. The Secretary-General reiterated his commitment to ensuring that programme managers were guided by the four criteria set out in Assembly resolution 55/292 [YUN 2000, p. 1401]. He also informed the Assembly that supplier performance evaluation forms used by the Procurement Division had been shared with the members of the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group.

ACABQ, in an October report [A/59/540], said that the information should be provided through a thematic approach by locality, instead of just a list of outputs, and should include an analysis of trends.

UN premises and property

Addis Ababa office facilities

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/270 [YUN 2002, p. 1490], the Secretary-General reported in October [A/59/444] that design activities for the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa were near completion. The final construction cost estimates were expected in December, and the construction contractor would be selected in May 2005. Construction was to be completed by mid-2007. However, the delay in project implementation and security-related enhancements to the building design might result in additional project costs. While every effort would be made to keep the total cost within the budget ($7.7 million) approved by the Assembly in resolution 56/270, any additional cost resulting from the design revisions would be reported to the Assembly in 2005.

ACABQ, in a November report [A/59/572], recommended that clear understandings be reached with the various UN entities involved to allow priority-oriented planning and to ensure the most efficient allocation of space, and that such information should be included in the next report of the Secretary-General.

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Parking space at Headquarters

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375], the Secretary-General submitted a February study [A/58/712] on viable options for ensuring sufficient parking space at UN Headquarters to meet current and future needs of diplomatic missions and Secretariat staff within the projected overall budget of the capital master plan (CMP) (see below). The study evaluated needs, described physical changes and gave estimated costs for a number of options. Taking into consideration costs and environmental and aesthetic impact, the study recommended the least expensive option, which would entail reorganization and rationalization of the existing garage and would add 66 parking spaces at a low initial cost and no additional operating costs.

ACABQ, in November [A/59/556], took note of the Secretary-General’s report, but considered that given the current uncertainties of the financing for CMP, it was premature to make a recommendation on the options for increasing parking space at Headquarters.

By decision 59/551 of 23 December, the Assembly deferred consideration of the Secretary-General’s report until its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session.

Capital master plan

Funding arrangements

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375], the Secretary-General reported in March [A/58/729] on the status of possible funding arrangements for the capital master plan (CMP). He stated that the host Government had informed the Secretariat on 20 February of its offer, subject to approval by the United States Congress, to lend the United Nations $1.2 billion to finance CMP at an interest rate of 5.54 per cent. During the construction phase, interest would be paid on the total amount, repayable over 25 years at the same interest rate, or $89,808,700 annually. The total sum to be repaid would amount to $2,511,137,500. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly note with appreciation the offer by the host country Government; note that the loan would increase the overall cost if interest rates were applied; and request him to consult further with the host country authorities on the exact terms of the loan, explore other funding opportunities, including contributions from public and private sources, and report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth (2004) session.

By decision 58/566 of 8 April, the Assembly postponed consideration of CMP financing to the second part of its resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session. It requested the Secretary-General to update section IV, entitled “Sources of funding, financing options and commercial borrowing” of his 2000 report on CMP [YUN 2000, p. 1405], and his report on the status of possible funding arrangements for CMP, and to submit all outstanding reports requested in resolution 57/292.

The Secretary-General, in his second annual report on the implementation of CMP, submitted in October [A/59/441] (see p. 1475) in response to resolution 57/292, stated that the Secretariat had sought more favourable financing options from the host country, which had since indicated that the maximum amount of the loan would be $1.2 billion and that the repayment period, including construction time, would be 35 years. Once approved by the Congress, a loan agreement between the United States and the United Nations should be entered into before 30 September 2005, or the offer would lapse. The loan could then be activated at any time over the next 35 years, with the United Nations drawing down all or part of it. The United Nations would incur no liability if it signed the loan agreement but did not activate the loan.

The Secretary-General sought advice on financing options from commercial financial institutions, which advised that the host country proposal was more favourable than a loan in capital markets. The Secretariat explored other options for reducing interest payments, such as taking advantage of short-term interest rates during the construction phase and using capital markets for longer-term borrowing. It determined, however, that the use of capital market alternatives would expose the United Nations to risk, especially with changes in interest rates on short-term borrowing.

The interest incurred on all financing proposals would be paid by Member States through the normal assessment process, with Member States having the option of paying the totality of their assessed share of the $1.2 billion prior to the start of construction, without any further obligation regarding future interest payments.

The Secretary-General said that the host country offer of an interest-bearing loan did not meet the Assembly’s expectations. However, if accepted, it would allow the Organization to lock in the interest rate for the loan. The loan offer, when used as a guarantee, would enable the United Nations to have access to capital-market interest rates that could, particularly during con-
struction, reduce the interest costs for the United Nations. A decision to use capital-market financing instead of the host country loan to finance either the CMP construction period or the permanent loan should be made prior to construction, when a more accurate comparison between the market interest rates and that offered by the host country could be made. Notwithstanding those options, the Secretary-General maintained the view that an interest-free loan would be the most advantageous option for the United Nations.

ACABQ, in November [A/59/556], said that since the proposed offer could not be formally made by the host country until the legislative process had been completed, it was not in a position to submit any views on it at that time, but would revert to the matter if and when a formal offer was made.

By decision 59/551 of 23 December, the Assembly deferred until its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session consideration of the Secretary-General’s report on the possible funding arrangements for CMP and his second annual report on CMP.

Cooperation with the City of New York

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375], the Secretary-General in April [A/58/799] provided an update on the status of the negotiations with the City and State of New York on implementation of the CMP project, which was initially reported on in 2003 [A/58/599]. Under the plan, a new building would be constructed by the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC), to be known as the UNDC-5 building, to provide swing space during the implementation of the CMP project. The City had developed a plan to mitigate the effects of the construction on the community and was working with the New York State legislature, which was expected to enact a mitigation plan in 2005. UNDC was finalizing a contract for the construction with the architectural firm selected and design work was expected to begin immediately upon the signing of the contract. A study on security requirements for the building was nearing completion. Construction was scheduled to start in late 2005, pending the resolution of all related matters.

In his second annual report on the implementation of CMP, submitted in October [A/59/441], the Secretary-General stated that a formal contract was signed in April with the design architects, Maki and Associates (Japan), and consultations between the architect and the Secretariat began in May. The United Nations, UNDC, the architect and New York City representatives met in July to discuss security requirements, which resulted in significantly increased costs. Other options and designs would be studied. The cost of the alternative building design by UNDC was estimated at $458.2 million, resulting in a fixed rent of $39.32 per square foot, compared to the preliminary estimate of $343.8 million prepared in 2002, with an estimated fixed rent of $27.59 per square foot. The Secretary-General recognized that the increase in the costs of the proposed building would impact on the overall cost of CMP and could call into question the viability of the building as swing space during the CMP construction phase. He would therefore evaluate other options for swing space during the period.

By decision 59/551 of 23 December, the Assembly deferred until its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session consideration of the Secretary-General’s report on UN cooperation with the City and State of New York related to CMP.

Review of CMP

Report of Board of Auditors. In July [A/59/161], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Board of Auditors on CMP for the biennium ended 31 December 2003, in response to Assembly resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375]. The review covered the design development and construction documentation phases. Expenditures of $4.3 million in 2002-2003 increased the total cumulative expenditure for CMP since its inception in December 2000 from $6.9 million to $11.2 million as at 31 December 2003. The Board found that delays in the initiation of the design and construction documentation phases might result in increases of some 3.5 per cent in design fees and of some $2.6 million per annum in administrative and operating expenses for the Office of the United Nations Capital Master Plan. The Board recommended that the Administration comply strictly with UN regulations and rules on procurement and contracting; address all causes of delay in the initiation of the design development and construction documentation phases; and adopt measures to minimize administrative and management costs.

OIOS report. In October [A/59/420], the Secretary-General, in response to Assembly resolution 57/292, forwarded the OIOS report on CMP for the period from August 2003 to July 2004. During that period, OIOS provided continuous audit coverage of CMP activities, including the construction phase of the security strengthening project. It reviewed contracts with an aggregate value of $59 million.

OIOS concluded that the resources appropriated by the Assembly for CMP activities were generally utilized in accordance with UN Financial Rules, however, UN operating procedures and documents related to construction contracts needed to be improved for the CMP project to be
implemented efficiently and economically. OIOS expressed concern that the construction documents for the security-strengthening project might not be entirely adequate because the construction manager and contract administrator were not on board during the design stage. Also, inconsistencies in the construction documents and the potential for cost savings had not been addressed by the Office of the Capital Master Plan prior to the issuance of the request for proposals, and the contractor’s guarantees for the performance of the security-strengthening construction were not adequate. OIOS stressed that the audit resources allocated to it for CMP were insufficient and that oversight resources should be increased to provide for adequate audit coverage.


**CMP implementation**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375], the Secretary-General submitted his second annual report on the implementation of CMP [A/59/441]. The report discussed possible funding arrangements (see p. 1473), progress made by the United Nations Development Cooperation (see p. 1474), establishment of an advisory board, progress of the design work for the refurbishment of UN Headquarters, a procurement update and status of appropriations and expenditures.

As the Assembly requested, the Secretary-General established a CMP advisory board to advise on CMP, act as a sounding board on major project concepts and assist with decisions on financial issues. It would initially advise on commercial borrowing and other financing options, and on architectural issues.

Work on refurbishing Headquarters was in the design development phase. The first activity entailed confirmation of the details of the scope of the refurbishment. Each design firm would prepare a scope confirmation report of its work, which together would provide a coordinated framework for detailed design development. All design development was expected to be completed by September 2005. The functional programming process was well under way to determine the size and general location of space for functions at Headquarters. At the time of the report, 13 contracts, with a total value of $10.4 million, had been awarded, including five contracts for the design development phase and related advisory services. Actual expenditure on CMP in 2003 amounted to $3.2 million. Expenditure for 2004 was projected at $19.4 million, of which $9.6 million had been spent by 31 July.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly: decide, if a formal offer for the proposed loan from the host country was received, to take up the matter during its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session; review at that session his proposals for the allocation of conference (see p. 1409) and parking space (see p. 1473) at Headquarters; encourage him to continue negotiations with the City and State of New York on the construction of a new building (UNDC-5) at a lease-purchase cost in line with the current lease costs of the UNDC-1 and UNDC-2 buildings, and in the light of those negotiations, to evaluate other options for swing space during the CMP construction phase; and convert into an appropriation for 2004-2005 an amount of $18,642,000 of the commitment authority of the $26 million approved in Assembly resolution 57/292, and to extend the validity of the residual balance of $7,358,000 into the 2006-2007 biennium so as to continue the design work and related project management and pre-construction services.

ACABQ, in its November report [A/59/556], stated that a number of the basic parameters had changed since the adoption of Assembly resolution 57/292, including the nature of the financing arrangements and the construction costs, which the Assembly might wish to take into account when considering the Secretary-General’s recommendations. It recommended approval of his proposal concerning the commitment authority for the 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 bienniums.

By decision 59/551 of 23 December, the Assembly deferred to its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session the Secretary-General’s second annual report on the implementation of CMP and the related ACABQ report.

**Security**

**Strengthening security of UN operations, staff and premises**

In April [A/58/756], the Secretary-General reported on strengthening the security and safety of UN operations, staff and premises. After the bombing of the UN facilities at Baghdad, Iraq, in August 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 346], he took a number of steps to strengthen the security and safety of the United Nations. In his April report, he proposed measures for the first phase of the long-term strengthening of security and safety, based on a review of arrangements at Headquarters and in the field. The total costs of the proposals
were estimated at $92,433,500, including one-time requirements of $71,193,900 for upgrading the physical and security infrastructures, acquiring related equipment and other expenditures such as the interim strengthening of security staff using general temporary assistance. A net request for the appropriation of $85,965,800 was submitted for the Assembly’s consideration, with the balance of $6,467,700 to be funded by Vienna-based organizations through cost-sharing.

ACABQ, having reviewed the Secretary-General’s report in April [A/58/758], recommended that the Assembly appropriate $40 million (gross) under the 2004-2005 programme budget for the implementation of the measures proposed by the Secretary-General on an interim basis. It also recommended that for peacekeeping operations and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, expenses estimated at $4.9 million should be accommodated within existing budgets ($4.3 million for peacekeeping and $0.6 million for the Tribunal); such additional appropriations could be considered in the context of the relevant performance reports. Some $8.9 million of the provision for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator recommended by ACABQ would be borne by the participating organizations under cost-sharing arrangements. Compared with the Secretary-General’s request for $85,965,800, ACABQ recommended a total of $63.0 million for the same functions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/58/820], adopted resolution 58/295 without vote [agenda items 12, 131, 134, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 145 (a) & (b), 146, 147].

Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises

The General Assembly,


Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises,

Having also considered the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. Stresses the need, for the purposes of objective analyses, for a dedicated functional staff at Headquarters to review the recommendations on country risk assessments made by security officers in the field with the assistance of and input from national authorities of the host country;

3. Approves the establishment of 58 new field security posts for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, and decides, without prejudice to such decisions as may be arrived at regarding cost-sharing arrangements, to appropriate 2,583,000 United States dollars, being the portion of costs normally attributable to the United Nations using current formulas, and to revert to the required residual funding of 8,162,100 dollars at the fifty-ninth session when determining cost-sharing arrangements;

4. Decides to revert to the possible conversion of the 58 extrabudgetary field security posts for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator in the context of the comprehensive report at its fifty-ninth session;

5. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not to exceed 38,053,200 dollars for the financing of infrastructure projects;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session a comprehensive report on further strengthening the safety and security of United Nations operations, staff and premises which should contain, inter alia, the following elements:

(a) Clearly established criteria for determining long-term needs;

(b) A rational framework for the enhancement of system-wide security arrangements, based on the completion of all ongoing reviews, including the change management study;

(c) Time frames for the completion of the various projects proposed in the report of the Secretary-General, as well as determinations as to which organizational units are responsible for their completion;

(d) Clearly established lines of accountability and responsibility and a clear chain of command for all participants in field security and at duty stations, including clarification of the relationship between all relevant United Nations entities and the Secretariat;

(e) Information on United Nations cooperation with and the role and responsibilities of host countries;

(f) Information on the need to ensure an enhanced professional capacity in the United Nations to conduct threat and risk assessment on a worldwide basis in order to address the issue raised in paragraph 18 of the report of the Secretary-General;

(g) Information on the utilization and cost of expertise sought on safety and security;

(h) Information on the need for adequate security-related training for all United Nations staff;

(i) Analysis of and recommendations on long-term funding arrangements for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and related resource requirements;

7. Decides that the resource requirements in the requested report should be based on and justified in terms of the Secretary-General’s comprehensive review of safety and security;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with the conduct of an audit review of the utilization and management of the funds appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/286 for the implementation of measures to strengthen the security and safety of United Nations premises, including the causes for cost escalation and
compliance with procurement procedures, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session in conjunction with the comprehensive report on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises;

9. Decides to approve an additional appropriation under the regular budget in the amount of $12,297,100 dollars, broken down by budget section as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Political affairs</td>
<td>$2,866,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Disarmament</td>
<td>$70,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Peacekeeping operations</td>
<td>$3,774,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>International Court of Justice</td>
<td>$84,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Economic and social development in Africa</td>
<td>$55,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>$592,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>$80,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Economic and social development in Western Asia</td>
<td>$233,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Public information</td>
<td>$186,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28A</td>
<td>Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28C</td>
<td>Office of Human Resources Management</td>
<td>$326,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28D</td>
<td>Office of Central Support Services</td>
<td>$1,672,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28E</td>
<td>Administration, Geneva</td>
<td>$2,683,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28F</td>
<td>Administration, Vienna</td>
<td>$1,931,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28G</td>
<td>Administration, Nairobi</td>
<td>$646,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Jointly financed administrative activities</td>
<td>$2,583,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$18,287,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 23 December, the Assembly took related action on a strengthened and unified UN security management system in resolution 59/276, section XI (see p. 1383).

**OIOS report.** The Secretary-General transmitted in October [A/59/396] the OIOS report on the utilization and management of funds appropriated during the 2002-2003 biennium for strengthening the security and safety of UN premises, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/295 (see above). The OIOS audit of the $57.7 million appropriated during 2002-2003 for that purpose focused on determining whether the funds were utilized in accordance with the proposals contained in the Secretary-General’s 2002 report on the subject [YUN 2002, p. 1460].

By 31 May 2004, $48.6 million of that amount had been spent. The delay in the signing of the main construction contract for projects at Headquarters, which was not finalized until 31 March, had led to further delays and increased costs. Proposed changes in specifications for the access control system would result in further cost escalation, and OIOS stated that the decision to modify the specifications should be supported by a cost benefit and risk analysis to justify the additional investment. OIOS considered that the unspent balance of $4.8 million for projects deferred to CMP and pooled in a construction-in-progress account should be surrendered or used to reduce the additional funds requested in the current biennium. Noting that the guarantees provided by the contractor for the main construction contract were significantly lower than the Organization’s requirements and industry standards, thereby exposing the United Nations to the risk of poor performance and payment defaults by the contractor, OIOS made recommendations for protecting more effectively the Organization’s interests in future construction contracts.

The underutilization of about $9.6 million (or 62 per cent of the revised appropriation) for security-strengthening projects at the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) resulted from the redesign and rescheduling of the projects owing to the increased level of threat to the United Nations following the incidents of 11 September 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 60] and 19 August 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 346]. UNOG expected most projects to be completed by December 2005. As projects were modified and the scope of work increased, the cost estimates more than doubled and further adjustments were likely. OIOS was of the opinion that, once all the security requirements were finalized, an up-to-date security strategy, a final plan and costing should be developed for each project. Senior management should ensure that the plan was respected and project objectives were achieved within the established costs and timelines. The steering committee established to oversee the projects should be revitalized to ensure a coordinated management decision-making process and to provide direction and oversight, and a dedicated project manager should be assigned to enhance UNOG project management capacity.

The value of the contract awarded for architectural/engineering work and overall supervision of the security projects increased from $670,000 to $4 million owing to a significant change in the scope of the work. It was expected that the fees would rise to $6.4 million because of a further increase in the scope of the construction work. In the opinion of OIOS, a market survey should be conducted to make certain that the total fees payable were still competitive.

**Unified security management system**
As requested in resolution 58/295 (see p. 1476), the Secretary-General reported in October [A/59/365] on the strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations. The report examined the current state of the UN security system, reviewed changes made since his 2001 report on inter-organizational security measures [YUN 2001, p. 1548] and made recommendations for organizational reform aimed
at better meeting the evolving security threat. Those recommendations called for the amalgamation of existing security components into a new Directorate of Security, to be headed by an Under-Secretary-General reporting directly to the Secretary-General; providing the Directorate with new capabilities in security threat and risk assessment, operational support in the field, policies and standards, compliance and evaluation, human resources management and training; increasing significantly the number of security personnel, particularly in the field; and phasing out the current cost-sharing arrangements for field security in favour of centrally funding security costs from assessed resources. In an addendum [A/59/365/Add.1 & Corr. 1] to the report, the Secretary-General proposed revised estimates under various sections of the 2004-2005 programme budget for the second phase of measures on the long-term strengthening of UN security and safety. The total gross costs of the proposed measures were estimated at $97.1 million, including one-time requirements of $29.6 million. Those resources would provide for the establishment of the Directorate of Security in New York, as well as activities to bring infrastructure and procedures up to a satisfactory standard of compliance with Headquarters minimum operating security standards.

ACABQ reviewed the recommendations in October [A/59/539] and stated that the new unified security management system should be focused primarily on the field, with a streamlined central capacity at Headquarters. It was of the view that the United Nations should enhance cooperation with national and/or local law enforcement agencies where host countries had well-developed security structures, and make use of their capacity in security threat and risk assessment. In countries where that was absent, the United Nations should strengthen its ability to ensure its own security. Concerning accountability and responsibility, ACABQ said that it was still not clear how the lines of reporting and decision-making would work in complex operations involving regional commissions, peacekeeping activities, special political missions, and activities of UN agencies, funds and programmes. The role of each responsible official should be clarified, as well as their place in the security framework. ACABQ recommended against the proposal to phase out the cost-sharing arrangements for field-related costs among organizations using the services of the field security management system, in favour of the United Nations appropriating the entire financial requirement, subject to proportional reimbursement from the agencies. According to ACABQ, it was not necessary for the proposed Directorate of Security to have an autonomous administrative and support capacity at Headquarters. The Headquarters operation should focus on policy guidance, general direction and monitoring functions. ACABQ expressed its firm view that the UN security system should be primarily focused on the field, with a streamlined central capacity at Headquarters. In that regard, ACABQ suggested a regional field presence, using national experience where relevant, in a structure to be accommodated within the total number of the proposed field desk posts. An additional 394 posts were proposed for the reinforcement of Security and Safety Services at Headquarters and at the other seven main UN locations.

In regard to the Secretary-General’s proposal for a system to control access to UN premises, ACABQ requested him to submit for Assembly consideration a detailed blueprint of the system, with justification for the costs involved. He should be authorized to enter into commitments not exceeding $11.2 million for the planning and initial work pending consideration of the requested report.

ACABQ looked forward to the further refinement of the Secretary-General’s security plan and to his implementation report which it had requested. It would revert to the matter of achieving economies in resources. The current request for appropriation would be adjusted to take into account the financial consequences of those ACABQ recommendations that the Assembly might adopt.

The Assembly took action on the reports of the Secretary-General on UN security and those of OIOS and ACABQ in resolution 59/276, section XI, of 23 December (see p. 1383).