

Environment and human settlements

In 2009, the United Nations and the international community continued to work towards protecting the environment through legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The twenty-fifth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum discussed the emerging policy themes of globalization and the environment and international environmental governance, and approved the 2010–2011 budget and work programme. It adopted decisions on, among other issues, the world environment situation; international environmental governance; environmental law; an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity; support to Africa in environmental management and protection; the environmental situation in Gaza; the engagement of young people in environmental issues; and chemicals management, including mercury. With regard to the latter, the Council agreed to the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on mercury to reduce risks to human health and the environment; an intergovernmental negotiating committee was to prepare that instrument, beginning its work in 2010.

In September, the Secretary-General convened a high-level summit on climate change to mobilize the political will and vision needed to reach a substantive agreed outcome at the UN climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark. In December, the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change produced the Copenhagen Accord, which expressed the intent to constrain carbon and respond to climate change, and contained elements on which the views of Governments converged, including the long-term goal of limiting the maximum global average temperature increase to no more than 2 degrees Celsius. However, participants were not able to reach an agreement on how to achieve that goal in practical terms. During the year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change addressed preparations of its Fifth Assessment Report. Also in December, the parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted amendments to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

In October, a special session of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests established an intergovernmental expert group to conduct an in-depth analysis of all aspects of forest financing and a facilitative process on forest financing to assist coun-

tries to mobilize funding from all sources. In April, the General Assembly designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day and in December adopted a resolution on promoting life in harmony with nature.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued to support the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. The twenty-second session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council approved the 2010–2011 work programme and budget of UN-Habitat, reviewed progress made in implementing the 2008–2013 medium-term strategic and institutional plan, and focused on affordable housing finance systems, strengthening the development of urban youth, access to basic services for all, and South-South cooperation in human settlements. The Governing Council recommended to the General Assembly that it consider convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development.

Environment

UN Environment Programme

Governing Council/Ministerial Forum

The twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held in Nairobi from 16 to 20 February [A/64/25]. On 20 February [A/64/25 (dec. 25/17)], the Governing Council decided to hold its eleventh special session in Bali, Indonesia, February 2010 and its twenty-sixth session in Nairobi in February 2011, and approved the provisional agendas for those sessions.

Ministerial consultations (16–19 February) on emerging policy issues focused on the themes of globalization and the environment (see p. 1009) and international environmental governance (see p. 1005). The Executive Director provided information on the ministerial consultations during the session [UNEP/GC.25/INF/37] and its two separate, but related themes: “Globalization and the Environment—Global crises: national chaos?” and “International environmental governance (IEG) and United Nations reform—IEG: help or hindrance?”

The Committee of the Whole, established by the Council/Forum on 16 February, considered policy issues, including the state of the environment; international environment governance; coordination and co-operation with the UN system and with major groups on environmental matters; the UNEP contribution as an implementing agency of the Global Environmental Facility; follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of UN summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including Council decisions; and the budget and programme of work for the 2010–2011 biennium, the Environment Fund and other budgetary and administrative matters. The report of the Committee, along with the policy statement of UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner and the summary presented by the Council/Forum President of the views expressed during the consultations, were annexed to the report on the proceedings of the session [UNEP/GC.25/17].

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Governing Council's report on its twenty-fifth session (**decision 2009/243**).

The General Assembly took note of the report in resolution 64/204 of 21 December (see below).

Subsidiary body

In 2009, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which was open to representatives of all UN Member States and members of specialized agencies, held an extraordinary meeting on 20 January [UNEP/CPR/106/3] and regular meetings on 17 March [UNEP/CPR/107/2], 16 June [UNEP/CPR/108/2], 15 September [UNEP/CPR/109/2] and 4 December [UNEP/CPR/110/2]. The Committee discussed, among other matters, the outcome of the twenty-fifth (2009) GC/GMEF session and preparations for the eleventh special session in 2010.

The Governing Council had before it a note by the UNEP Executive Director [UNEP/GC.25/INF.4] transmitting a report on the Committee's work from December 2006 to 17 September 2008.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/64/420/Add.7], adopted **resolution 64/204** without vote [agenda item 53 (g)].

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 De-

cember 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004, 60/189 of 22 December 2005, 61/205 of 20 December 2006, 62/195 of 19 December 2007 and 63/220 of 19 December 2008,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Taking into account Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority and principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries,

Taking note of decision 25/4 of 20 February 2009 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, by which the Governing Council established a consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, with the purpose of preparing a set of options for improving international environmental governance for the consideration of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session, with a view to providing inputs to the General Assembly,

Taking note also of the developments in the area of global efforts in relation to chemicals management, including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and the preparations for the negotiations on the global legally binding instrument on mercury,

Reiterating that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Management review of environmental governance within the United Nations system", and the note by the Secretary-General thereon,

Taking note also of decision 25/10 of 20 February 2009 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session and the decisions contained therein;

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Environmental Programme, and encourages the further strengthening of efforts, to shift emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work, and in this regard takes note of the approval of the programme of work and the budget for the period 2010–2011;

3. *Underlines* the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard welcomes the decision to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan as an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme's medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013, invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other

stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan and as reflected in the medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly through its Quick Start Programme, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage actively and cooperate closely to support the Strategic Approach implementation activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, including by providing adequate resources;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum from 24 to 26 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to hold a simultaneous extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali immediately before the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

8. *Reaffirms* the need, while recognizing the efforts and actions taken, to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, in the area of protection of the environment, including through the provision of adequate financial resources, and in this respect emphasizes the importance of building on the experiences gained from the preparation of different global environmental assessments as well as other relevant developments in this field;

9. *Recognizes* the global challenges posed by mercury, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury;

10. *Reiterates* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to conduct comprehensive, integrated and scientifically credible global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, in the light of the continuing need for up-to-date, scientifically credible, policy-relevant information on environmental change worldwide, and in this regard encourages the Programme to undertake a comprehensive integrated global assessment, leading to the preparation of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series, which should inform, as appropriate, the strategic directions of the Programme;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group, as well as in the United Nations “Delivering as One” exercise at the country level;

12. *Welcomes* the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund;

13. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

14. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session”.

International environmental governance

JIU report. In February, the UNEP Governing Council had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the management review of environmental governance within the UN system [UNEP/GC.25/INF/33]. The objective of the review was to strengthen the governance of, and programmatic and administrative support for, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) by UN organizations by identifying measures to promote coordination, coherence and synergies between MEAs and the UN system. The review found that the framework of international environmental governance was weakened by institutional fragmentation and specialization, as well as the lack of a holistic approach to environmental issues and sustainable development. UN system organizations had not defined clearly their responsibilities under the governance framework, which aimed at integrating environmental protection into economic and social development and mainstreaming environmental considerations in sustainable development policies. Recommendations were made for the General Assembly to: establish a clear division of labour

among developmental agencies, UNEP and the MEAs outlining their respective areas and types of activities; consider upgrading the UN Strategic Framework and UNEP Medium-Term Strategy to system-wide instruments in order to allow the integration of the strategic goals of environment-related organizations into a single governance framework; and support GC/GMEF in conducting its regular review of the effectiveness of the implementation of all MEAs administered within the UN system, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the 2002 report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance [YUN 2002, p. 1032], which was adopted by the Governing Council that year [ibid., p. 1033] and became known as the “Cartagena Package”. In order to avoid proliferation of MEA secretariats, the Secretary-General should submit to the Assembly, through GC/GMEF, proposals for ways by which Member States could better formulate and manage multilateral environmental instruments without creating new secretariats.

The report further recommended that the Secretary-General: submit to the Assembly guidelines on the establishment of national and regional platforms on environmental protection and sustainable development policies to help Member States coordinate policies on integrated implementation of MEAs; encourage the development of joint programmes and projects by UN agencies and organizations through the establishment of a joint, system-wide planning framework based on results-based management and backed by an inventory of environmental initiatives and actors; and conduct, in consultation with MEAs and UN system organizations, a review of the adequacy and effectiveness of funding environmental activities, focusing on incremental costs, and report thereon to the General Assembly. Drawing on the Secretary-General’s report on the review, the Assembly should redefine the concept of incremental cost funding applicable to the existing financial mechanisms. The Secretary-General, in consultation with MEA secretariats, should define clear delegation of authority, as well as the division of roles and responsibilities of the entities providing administrative, financial and human resources management services to conferences of the parties to MEAs. He should also increase transparency in the use of the programme support cost resources by charging them to the MEAs against the actual expenditures incurred. Those resources should be pooled in a common administrative support budget for the MEAs.

Governing Council action. In February, the UNEP Governing Council adopted a multi-part decision on the implementation of its 2002 decision [YUN 2002, p. 1032] on international environmental governance [A/64/25 (dec. 25/1)]. In the first part of the decision [dec. 25/1 I], the Council took note of the JIU

report and reaffirmed its commitment to continuing the discussion on international environmental governance with a view to adopting a General Assembly resolution on determining specific actions towards greater coherence and efficacy of the international environmental institutional framework. It also noted that the Assembly, in accordance with resolution 61/205 [YUN 2006, p. 1207], had decided to consider, if necessary, the issue of universal membership of GC/GMEF at its sixty-fourth (2009) session. The Council, having considered the 10 February report by the co-chairs of the informal consultations of the General Assembly on the institutional framework for UN environment work [UNEP/GC.25/INF/35], also decided [dec. 25/4] to establish a regionally representative consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives to present options for improving international environmental governance to the eleventh (2010) GC/GMEF special session, with a view to providing inputs to the Assembly.

Ministerial consultations. GC/GMEF held ministerial consultations from 16 to 19 February on the theme “International environmental governance and United Nations reform: international environmental governance: help or hindrance”, which was presented in a discussion paper submitted by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.25/16/Add.1]. The theme focused on international environmental governance from a country perspective, including the lack of coherence in the international environmental governance system at that level; improving coordination of multilateral environmental agreements; recurring themes; and other proposals on strengthening international environmental governance. The paper also highlighted other issues for discussion during the ministerial consultations.

Notes by Secretary-General. By a 20 May note [A/64/83-E/2009/83], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the JIU report. In June [A/64/83/Add.1-E/2009/83/Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted his comments on the JIU report and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). Although CEB members welcomed the report and supported many of its recommendations, they also expressed concern regarding the modalities suggested for implementing the recommendations and noted that several required additional consideration.

The Economic and Social Council took note of both notes on 31 July (**decision 2009/264**).

Consultative Group meetings. The first meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance (Belgrade, Serbia, 27–28 June), organized in response to Governing Councils (see above), resulted in a process of reform of international environmental governance—known as the Belgrade Process—and a roadmap to guide the process.

At its second meeting (Rome, 28–29 October), the Consultative Group identified options for improving international environmental governance.

Notes by Executive Director. A December note by the UNEP Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.XI/4] reviewed the outcome of the work of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives. The group identified a set of options for improving international environmental governance; considered that aspects of the objectives and functions of the international environmental governance system could be met through incremental reforms; identified a need to reassess the adequacy of the existing system by undertaking broader reforms; and suggested that the Council establish an inclusive and transparent process on broader institutional reforms for international environmental governance that involved the UN system, so as to enable a fully informed political process. Another December note [UNEP/GCSS.XI/5] contained the Executive Director's comments on the JIU report.

Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

The Governing Council in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1135] adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building [YUN 2004, p. 1040], an inter-governmentally agreed framework for strengthening technology support and the capacity of Governments in developing countries and countries with economies in transition—including reinforcing UNEP's role and building on areas where it had comparative advantage and expertise—to coherently address their needs, priorities and obligations in the field of the environment.

On 20 February [A/64/25 (dec. 25/1 III)], the Governing Council noted that the Bali Strategic Plan had become an integral part of the medium-term strategy for 2010–2013 and of the implementation of the UNEP programme of work. It called on the Executive Director to advance and fully implement the Plan with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and requested the Executive Director to strengthen the UNEP regional offices so as to contribute to the implementation of the Plan.

UNEP activities

Monitoring and assessment

In a February note [UNEP/GC.25/INF/34], the Executive Director reviewed options for a future global environmental assessment on environmental change, as outlined in the Executive Director's 2008 report [YUN 2008, p. 1144]. The note described the con-

text of the next global environmental assessment and how it responded to strategic programmatic changes and new demands. It presented five options, with associated products and cost estimates. The options were: a global integrated environmental assessment updated to better utilize information technology; an objective expert outsourced assessment; an indicator-based approach; a targeted assessment on thematic priority areas supported by an enabling framework; and a coherent set of integrated and thematic assessments. The latter option was the preferred one: it responded best to the new UNEP strategic directions by aligning the assessment along the main themes of the Medium-term Strategy [YUN 2008, p. 1153]; it would engage all UNEP divisions in the production of the assessment; and it would provide short- and long-term perspectives on the state of the global environment related to UNEP's priority areas of focus and analysis of trade-offs under various policy responses.

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/2 III] requested the Executive Director: to undertake a coherent set of integrated and thematic UNEP assessments, including a comprehensive integrated global assessment, the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series, *GEO-5*; to organize a *GEO-5* process in which the scope, objectives and process of the Global Environment Outlook were finalized and adopted at a global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation; to convene a final intergovernmental meeting to negotiate and endorse the summary for policymakers based on the scientific findings of the report; and to elaborate on the requirements for a migration to targeted assessments on thematic priority areas and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth (2011) session.

The Council [dec. 25/2 I] urged Governments, UN agencies, financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to consider key environmental assessment findings in the light of the growing awareness of the complexity of those challenges and their links to human well-being and development goals. It also called on Governments to demonstrate strong leadership and to implement effective policy responses, including economic instruments and market mechanisms to regulate and manage the environment, ecosystems and their services, and to cooperate within the framework of multilateral processes aiming to reverse environmental degradation.

Regarding the international assessment landscape, the Council [dec. 25/2 II] urged Governments to improve the scientific basis of their own environmental management and decision-making and to strengthen public support for environmental action through regular assessment and reporting on the state of the national environment. It requested the Executive Director to make scientific data, metadata

and standards from assessments available in an open-access electronic format; to maintain oversight of the international assessment landscape; to work with other partners in efforts to streamline and improve coherence in international environmental assessment and reporting processes; to assist in developing assessment processes that were credible, relevant and legitimate; to strengthen the capacities of countries that were experiencing challenges in meeting their environmental assessment and reporting obligations; to facilitate access to environmental assessments and reports through an online depository; and to report back to the Council on improvements through the Executive Director's report on the state of the environment.

Environment Watch strategy

Following its consideration of the revised Environment Watch strategy submitted in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 1145], the Governing Council, in February 2009 [A/64/25 (dec. 25/1 II)], welcomed the consultative process on strengthening the UNEP scientific base and the valuable inputs made by Governments and other stakeholders. It noted that the revised strategy was consistent with the UNEP work programme and the "Delivering as one" approach. It also recognized that the important functions of the strategy included: capacity-building and technology support; assessment; early warning, monitoring and observation; data support, information-sharing and development of environmental indicators; and networking and partnerships. The Council invited countries, partners, donors and financial institutions to contribute extrabudgetary resources to meet the cost of implementing the strategy at the national level.

UNEP Year Book

The *UNEP Year Book 2009: New Science and Developments in our Changing Environment* presented work in progress on the scientific understanding of global environmental change, as well as foresight about issues on the horizon. It aimed to raise awareness of the interlinkages among environmental issues that could accelerate the rate of change and threaten human well-being. Its six chapters examined new science and developments and discussed the cumulative effects expected from the degradation of ecosystems; the release of substances harmful to ecosystems and to human health; the consequences of climate change; the continued human and economic loss resulting from disasters and conflicts; and the overexploitation of resources. The volume called for an intensified sense of urgency for responsible governance in the face of approaching critical thresholds and tipping points.

Support to Africa

In follow-up to the Executive Director's 2008 report [YUN 2008, p. 1146] on support to Africa in environmental management and protection, the Executive Director, in February 2009, submitted supplementary information [UNEP/GC.25/INF/21] on the topic, including on UNEP activities in Africa related to climate change; minimizing threats from the environmental causes and consequences of conflict and disaster; ecosystem management; environmental governance; alleviating the environmental and health impacts of harmful substances and hazardous wastes; and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.

The Governing Council in February [A/64/25 (dec. 25/16)] requested the Executive Director: to continue extending implementation and institutional support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), including the subregional environmental action plans; to strengthen the Africa Environment Outlook process as a tool for monitoring environmental challenges and sustainable development in Africa and as a framework for environmental reporting; to work closely with the African Union (AU), the regional economic communities, the NEPAD secretariat and other partners to enhance the strategic role of UNEP; to enhance the capacity of the UNEP regional office for Africa to lead the delivery of the UNEP programme of work in Africa; to work with the Economic Commission for Africa in providing technical support to the African climate policy centre, once established, to promote the integration of climate change into social and economic development and planning; to collaborate with African development partners and the AU to support African countries in implementing regional environmental agreements; to strengthen working relationships with the AU specialized technical committees to facilitate the integration of the environment into the AU work; to support the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Ministers' Council on Water in implementing their work programmes; to mobilize financial resources to build the capacity of African countries in assessment and reporting; and to support the use of and update the publication *Africa: Atlas of our Changing Environment* and the underlying data as a tool for policy decision-making. The Executive Director was also requested to report to the Governing Council's twenty-sixth (2011) session.

The Council also took note [dec. 25/7] of the Executive Director's 2008 report.

Water policy and strategy

The Governing Council in February [A/64/25 (dec. 25/7)] took note of the Executive Director's 2008

report [YUN 2008, p. 1147] summarizing UNEP activities related to its water policy and strategy. The Council had adopted the policy and strategy in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 1050].

Other activities

In 2009, UNEP supported activities in more than 100 countries. Eighteen countries received support from the UNEP-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Poverty and Environment Initiative for integrating environmental concerns in their policies, programmes and laws. UNEP assisted 15 developing countries in assessing their renewable energy potential and more than 25 countries in identifying barriers to the uptake of clean technologies. Some 170 countries participated in the Billion Tree Campaign, planting more than 7.4 billion trees. The United Nations Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) programme, a joint initiative of UNEP, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, provided technical and financial assistance to nine countries as they began to transform their forest sectors into the pillars of a future green economy. The programme disbursed \$24 million to help participating countries to develop their REDD strategies.

Through its Finance Initiative (FI), UNEP worked with more than 180 institutions, including banks, insurers and fund managers, to understand the impact of environmental and social considerations on financial performance. The UNEP FI 2009 Global Roundtable (Cape Town, South Africa, 22–23 October) brought together more than 450 bankers, investors and insurers to discuss the future of sustainable finance and responsible investment.

UNEP supported six Indian Ocean countries in better preparing for the impacts of climate change and in improving livelihoods and environmental quality in coastal areas. It provided training on public participation in environmental impact assessment to more than 250 experts from environmental agencies, the private sector and civil society from nine countries. It also helped develop and implement biodiversity policies in Botswana, Chile, China, Costa Rica, India, Kenya, Namibia and South Africa, and worked at the regional level with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries and the Africa region.

Environment and sustainable development

The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its seventeenth session (New York, 4–15 May) [E/2009/29], continued to consider, for its 2008–2009 implementation cycle, the thematic cluster issues of agriculture, rural development,

land, drought, desertification and Africa. The Commission had before it reports of the Secretary-General on the review of Agenda 21 [YUN 1992, p. 672] and of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation [YUN 2002, p. 822] with regard to agriculture [E/CN.17/2009/3], rural development [E/CN.17/2009/4], land [E/CN.17/2009/5], drought [E/CN.17/2009/6] (see p. 1031), desertification [E/CN.17/2009/7] (see p. 1032), Africa [E/CN.17/2009/8], as well as interlinkages and cross-cutting issues [E/CN.17/2009/9]. The latter report highlighted the interlocking relationships among the issues in the thematic cluster, and indicated that policies and measures aimed at one issue might have co-benefits for other issues and should be considered through an integrated approach in order to achieve long-term progress. Sustainable agriculture and natural resources management practices could increase productivity of scarce land resources and help to protect watersheds. Such interlinkages were presented in the report with a view to developing a menu of policy options and measures of optimal effectiveness.

Also before the Commission was a 30 April letter from Israel [E/CN.17/2009/17] on the seminar entitled “The Role of Native and Desert-Adapted Species for the Purpose of Slowing Desertification” (Kibbutz Ketura, Israel, 22–30 March), organized in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and designed to contribute to policies related to desertification and dryland development; and a 7 May letter from Belarus [E/CN.17/2009/18] on the initiative to declare 2009 the “Year of Our Native Land” in Belarus, with the aim of protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development.

The UNEP Executive Director in December [UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/7] summarized the contribution by UNEP to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth (2010) session.

Small island developing States

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/7] took note of the report of the Executive Director [YUN 2008, p. 1148] summarizing the activities undertaken by UNEP for small island developing States (SIDS).

Report of Secretary-General. In an August report [A/64/278] on follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN 2005, p. 946], the Secretary-General reviewed progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS, including the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise, which represented the most immediate threats to the sustainable development of SIDS. The report also

gave an overview of the arrangements being made for the 2010 review of the Strategy.

(For further information on the sustainable development of SIDS, see p. 837.)

South-South cooperation

On 20 February [dec. 25/9], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director: to build on current work on South-South cooperation and to develop strategic partnerships and alliances in support of capacity-building and technology support activities using South-South cooperation arrangements; to develop and refine the strategic and operational guidelines and to develop a policy guidance for the coordinated implementation of South-South cooperation approaches across the UNEP work programme; to initiate efforts towards establishing formal cooperation arrangements with mechanisms and centres of excellence active in South-South cooperation, such as the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, to foster cooperation in the field of the environment; to strengthen the UNEP coordination mechanism and structure for South-South cooperation, including its regional presence, with a view to enhancing its role and function; to implement high-profile projects in South-South cooperation in the field of the environment; to contribute to the Secretary-General's report to the forthcoming High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (see p. 876) and to participate in that Conference; and to report to the Council's twenty-sixth (2011) session.

(For further information on South-South cooperation, see p. 873.)

Globalization and the environment

GC/GMEF held ministerial consultations on globalization and the environment from 16 to 18 February. The Council/Forum had before it a background paper presented by the Executive Director, entitled "Globalization and the environment—global crises: national chaos?" [UNEP/GC.25/16]. It stated that over the preceding 12 months, the world had witnessed the emergence of multiple global crises related to food, fuel, freshwater and finance. The complexity of the situation was compounded by climate change, which was exacerbating the impact of each crisis. The paper identified challenges and provided information on international responses to address multiple crises, possible responses to the crises in the environmental field, and a selection of government responses to the financial crisis and the "green economy". It also presented the priority green economic sectors identified by UNEP, as well as a series of questions for discussion during the ministerial consultations.

Coordination and cooperation

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/1 VI] welcomed the efforts of the Executive Director, in his capacity as chair of the Environment Management Group (EMG), and those of its members, in promoting cooperation across the UN system on environmental activities, including its support for the commitment made by CEB to moving the United Nations towards climate neutrality; requested the Executive Director to invite EMG to promote cooperation across the UN system to assist Member States in implementing the international environmental agenda; welcomed the UNEP efforts to engage in the "Delivering as one" initiative and in the joint UNEP-UNDP poverty and environment initiative; reaffirmed the UNEP role as the principal environmental body within the UN system; expressed its wish that cooperation between UNEP and UNDP be strengthened, including through the revised memorandum of understanding (see below) and by clearly specifying their respective roles; and requested the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the revised memorandum of understanding to the Governing Council at its next (2010) special session.

Memorandum of understanding

In response to the Governing Council's February request [dec. 25/1 VI], the Executive Director in November presented a report on the implementation of the revised memorandum of understanding between UNEP and UNDP [UNEP/GCSS.XI/3]. While UNEP and UNDP were cooperating in a number of projects and activities, there remained insufficient programmatic coherence in that cooperation, including in terms of respective agency mandates and comparative advantages. The revised memorandum, signed in December 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 1151], sought to achieve deeper cooperation between the two agencies—including via joint programming—that was consistent with the organizations' respective mandates and comparative advantages. It contained sections on administrative services, reimbursable support service arrangements and programme implementation. Areas of cooperation might include climate change, the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative and other environmental endeavours, such as the implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, the multilateral environmental agreements and other agreements to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The report also reviewed EMG activities to promote cooperation across the UN system on environmental activities, the UNEP contribution to UN programming guidance and its engagement with the UN system at the country level.

Environmental emergencies

In 2009, UNEP continued to assist vulnerable or crisis-affected countries and communities by providing environmental expertise for assessments and integrating environmental concerns in emergency response, post-crisis reconstruction, recovery projects, and long-term sustainable development.

During the year, UNEP established a new programme to integrate environmental issues within humanitarian operations and provided expertise in more than 12 crisis-affected locations, including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, China, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gaza Strip, Haiti, Myanmar, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The second phase of an environmental recovery programme in the Sudan focused on capacity-building and effective management of natural resources, primarily water and forests. UNEP expanded its presence in the country, establishing coordination offices in El Fasher, Juba and Nyala. Thanks to UNEP involvement, the 2009 Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan allocated \$1 million to environmental initiatives—from sustainable construction technology and drought preparedness strategies in camps for internally displaced persons to the rollout of 70,000 fuel-efficient stoves and the planting of 630,000 tree seedlings to curb deforestation. UNEP also conducted assessments of hydropolitical vulnerability and resilience along international waters in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

Oil slick in Lebanon

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/211 [YUN 2008, p. 1150], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/64/259] reviewing progress in implementing Assembly resolutions 61/194 [YUN 2006, p. 1215], 62/188 [YUN 2007, p. 1053] and 63/211 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores that resulted from the 2006 destruction by Israel of oil storage tanks in Lebanon following the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and the paramilitary group Hizbullah [YUN 2006, p. 574]. The marine oil spill resulted in the release of some 15,000 tons of fuel oil into the Mediterranean Sea and led to the contamination of about 150 kilometres of coastline in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Preliminary results of a comprehensive survey carried out in late 2008 of the 210-kilometre shoreline from Tyre to the northern border of Lebanon indicated that 12 sites still needed to be cleaned; many sites remained stained by the oil spill but should be left for weathering and natural effects rather than active intervention; and underwater surveys conducted in 10 sites did not reveal any underwater contamination with heavy fuel oil, with the

exception of Jbeil-Byblos beach, where a large number of tarballs were found. The findings of the survey were anticipated to be published in September 2009. Israel had yet to assume its responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to Lebanon.

The first phase of the clean-up was completed in 2007, and involved recovering free-floating oil from the sea and confined areas; cleaning areas with potential for direct human contact or risk to public health; rehabilitating areas where oil slicks hampered economic activities; and addressing threats to environmentally or culturally important sites. Assistance for the first phase was estimated at around \$18.5 million. Partners included Italy, the Fund for International Development of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, UNDP, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Canadian International Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The second phase focused on the removal of fuel from rocks, wave cut platforms, cliffs and infrastructure. Clean-up work was sponsored by Japan, Norway, Spain and USAID. As at June 2008, approximately 500 cubic metres of liquid and 3,120 cubic metres of semi-solid and solid waste had been collected during both phases of clean-up operations and had been stored in containers in secure temporary storage sites, with contribution from all partners. Treatment began at two of the temporary storage sites, and was expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2009.

The Experts Working Group for Lebanon had estimated the overall cost of clean-up and rehabilitation at between \$137 million and \$205 million [YUN 2008, p. 1150], of which about 10 per cent of the average upper limit range had been received by Lebanon in support of its clean-up costs as at June 2008. Meanwhile, UNEP was taking steps to establish the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had expressed its readiness to host the Trust Fund.

The Secretary-General commended Lebanon's ongoing efforts to address the impact of the oil spill and the efforts made by the UN system in responding to the emergency. He urged Israel to assume responsibility for compensation and Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, NGOs and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon. The international effort should be intensified as Lebanon was still engaged in oil removal, waste treatment and recovery monitoring. The Secretary-General was finalizing the mechanism under which the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund would operate.

Communication. On 28 October [A/C.2/64/10], the Syrian Arab Republic transmitted its position in respect of the Secretary-General's report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420], adopted **resolution 64/195** by recorded vote (164-8-7) [agenda item 53].

Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007 and 63/211 of 19 December 2008 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference, in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Noting again with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of El-Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline and extended to the Syrian coastline,

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Taking note of the fact that the Secretary-General is currently finalizing the mechanism under which the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund will operate,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/211 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;

2. *Reiterates the expression of its deep concern* about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese El-Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

4. *Requests* the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of the Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages the Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

6. *Reaffirms* its decision to establish an Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at El-Jiyeh electric power plant, and requests the Secretary-General to continue working towards the hosting and operationalization of the Trust Fund and to promptly finalize the implementation of that decision before the end of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

7. *Invites* States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to finalize the mechanism under which the Trust Fund will operate;

8. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 64/195:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia,

Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Fiji, Liberia, Panama, Tonga.

Environmental situation in Gaza Strip

On 20 February [dec. 25/12], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to deploy a mission of environmental experts to Gaza to assess the natural and environmental impacts on the Gaza Strip caused by the escalation of violence and hostilities (see p. 434), and to report on the findings, results and recommendations to the Council's eleventh (2010) special session.

In November, pursuant to that decision, the Executive Director submitted a report on the environmental situation in the Gaza Strip [UNEP/GCSS.XI/9] based on field work by a team of international experts deployed by UNEP. The team concluded that a wide range of environmental challenges required urgent resolve, ranging from safe disposal of large amounts of rubble, some of which was contaminated with asbestos, to sewage pollution of coastal waters. Some of the challenges had been aggravated by recent events, but their roots predated the recent hostilities. The most urgent finding concerned the state of the underground water supplies, upon which the Palestinian people—and to a large extent the people of Israel—relied for drinking and irrigation. Years of over-abstraction and pollution had jeopardized the sustainability of the Gaza Strip unless the aquifer was 'rested' and improved sanitation and desalination were introduced. The report outlined options for managing the situation and leading the Gaza Strip onto a sustainable path. It also provided recommendations for remedying the damage caused by the hostilities and for addressing pre-existing, environmental degradation, including, among others, providing technical support for farmland and orchard restoration; repairing water supply and sewage systems; removing water resources from the framework of the ongoing conflict in the region; developing an alternative water supply for the Gaza Strip; establishing new sewage treatment plants; and rebuilding environmental governance.

Participation of civil society

The tenth Global Civil Society Forum (Nairobi, 14–15 February), attended by an estimated 230 participants, discussed several issues, including civil society engagement at the twenty-fifth (2009) session of the Governing Council, partnerships for implementing the 2010–2011 UNEP work programme, and the themes of the twenty-fifth session: "Globalization and the environment: global crisis: national chaos?" and "International environmental governance: help or hindrance?" Forum participants also considered the chemicals agenda and civil society statements. Civil society statements from six regions—Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia—were submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the Council by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.25/INF/9]. Themes covered in the statement included climate change, disasters and conflict, globalization and the environment, and engagement with civil society.

Nearly 300 civil society organizations from 88 countries participated in the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council. In addition to the nine major group categories included in Agenda 21, other organizations—from faith-based groups to cultural associations—were represented. Female participation increased from 40 to 46 per cent.

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/6] took note of the final report by the Executive Director [YUN 2008, p. 1151] on the implementation of the long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues [YUN 2002, p. 1040]. It endorsed the activities of the second long-term strategy presented by the Executive Director in that report and decided to implement the strategy through the UNEP work programmes. The Council also requested the Executive Director to present a midterm progress report on the implementation of the strategy at its twenty-seventh (2013) session and to present a final report at its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

The Tunza International Children and Youth Conference on Climate Change (Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 17–23 August), organized by UNEP in cooperation with the UNEP National Committee for the Republic of Korea, brought together around 800 young people from all over the world and addressed the theme "Climate Change: Our Challenge". Participants pledged to carry out efforts to ensure that global warming remained an international priority.

General Assembly issues

The Executive Director in February provided information on issues arising from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 2008 that called for action by, or were of relevance to, UNEP [UNEP/GC.25/INF/3].

Administrative and budgetary matters

Environment Fund

In a January note [UNEP/GC.25/INF/5], the Executive Director provided information on the status of the Environment Fund and other sources of UNEP funding, as well as an overview of the availability of resources and their use over the 2008–2009 biennium. Total provisional resources for the biennium amounted to \$441.3 million, including balances as at 1 January 2008 of \$108.5 million, while total claims on resources were estimated at \$382.1 million. The estimated total year-end balance of funds as at 31 December 2008 was projected to be \$59.2 million. Ninety-two countries pledged \$88.9 million to the Environment Fund for 2008.

In response to a 2007 Governing Council decision [YUN 2007, p. 1056], the Executive Director provided a report on the Environment Fund budgets [UNEP/GC.25/14] containing information on resources available in the 2008–2009 biennium, in the light of which a supplementary work programme and budget for 2009 were proposed. The Council was requested to approve the supplementary work programme and approve appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of \$171 million. In February [UNEP/GC.25/14/Add.1], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) stated that it had no objection to the suggested actions.

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/15] approved the 2008–2009 supplementary work programme; approved appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of \$171 million, including \$16.9 million for the support budget and \$6.9 million for the Fund programme reserve; and authorized the Executive Director to increase the financial reserve by up to \$5 million in line with previous Council decisions.

Following consideration of the Executive Director's report on the proposed 2010–2011 biennial programme and support budgets [UNEP/GC.25/12], which requested appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of \$180 million, and the related ACABQ report [UNEP/GC.25/12/Add.1], the Governing Council [dec. 25/13] approved the work programme, support budget and appropriations for the Environment Fund in the requested amount, including \$18 million for the support budget and \$6 million for the Fund programme reserve. It authorized the Executive Director to reallocate resources among budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources were to be reallocated, as well as funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of an appropriation, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Executive

Director was also authorized to enter into forward commitments not exceeding \$20 million for Environment Fund programme activities for the 2012–2013 biennium.

The Council requested the Executive Director to continue shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results, ensuring that UNEP managers took responsibility for achieving programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources. The Executive Director was also requested: to continue consultations with Member States as he further developed the process to implement the 2010–2011 work programme and budgets; to provide Member States, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a document containing additional information on internal prioritization at the expected accomplishment level within each subprogramme of the 2010–2011 work programme prior to its implementation; and to report to Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a half-yearly basis, and to the Governing Council at its regular and special sessions, on progress made by each of the subprogrammes and their expected accomplishments, and on the execution of UNEP budgets.

Regarding the 2012–2013 biennium, the Executive Director was requested to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a work programme consisting of Environment Fund programme activities, and to continue submitting prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined work programme and budgets for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth (2011) session.

Trust funds

At its February session, the Governing Council had before it a report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.25/13], which provided information and suggested action on the management of the trust funds and earmarked contributions that supported the UNEP work programme. As at 30 November 2008, there were 81 UNEP-administered active trust funds. For the 2008–2009 biennium, the estimated expenditure of \$740.6 million included \$110.8 million for trust funds directly supporting the UNEP programme of work, \$168.7 million for trust funds for conventions, protocols and regional seas programmes and \$461 million for special accounts and trust funds. For the 2010–2011 biennium, the projected expenditures amounted to \$807.9 million, of which \$162.2 million related to trust funds directly supporting the UNEP programme of work, \$201.7 million to conventions and regional seas programmes and \$444 million to special accounts and trust funds.

On 20 February [dec. 25/14], the Governing Council approved the establishment of 5 trust funds, the extension of 35 and the closure of 1.

Indicative scale of contributions

In response to a 2007 Governing Council decision [YUN 2007, p. 1058], which dealt with, among other issues, strengthening UNEP financing, the Executive Director provided information [UNEP/GC.25/INF/14] on the operation of the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to the Environment Fund and other voluntary contribution options. The pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions aimed at enhancing predictability in financing and at broadening the base of contributions was launched in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1047]. The main results achieved by UNEP through the introduction of the scale were: significant broadening of the donor base, as 157 Member States had pledged and paid contributions during the previous six years; greater short-term predictability of voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund, with approximately 75 per cent of Member States pledging annually in accordance with the voluntary scale; improved financial stability, as most donor countries had at least maintained the level of their voluntary payments to the Fund; and higher voluntary payments to the Fund, as the negative trends in contributions experienced during the four bienniums preceding the adoption of the scale were reversed and positive growth in contributions began immediately upon its adoption. Other factors contributing to strengthening the financial situation of UNEP included the improving strategic vision, focus and management of the organization and the good will of the donor Governments making additional voluntary payments. The Environment Fund remained vulnerable to exchange-rate fluctuations, unpredictable decreases and even non-payment and delayed payments, including by major donors. UNEP should continue building donor confidence through efficient planning, timely delivery of its programme results, improved reporting and more efficient use of funds.

On 20 February [dec. 25/1 IV], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to notify Member States of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions that he intended to propose for the 2010–2011 biennium by 1 August of the year preceding the year in which those contributions would be paid. It also invited each Member State to inform the Executive Director as to whether it would use the proposed scale of contributions, and encouraged Governments to make their voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund in 2010–2011 in an amount equal to or greater than that suggested by the scale or on the basis of the other voluntary options.

Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2009 continued to address global issues in its six areas of concern: climate change, biodiversity, persistent organic pollutants, land degradation, international waters and ozone depletion.

From June 2008 to July 2009, the two largest focal areas were biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation, constituting 33 per cent and 32 per cent of all GEF funds, respectively. During that period, GEF financed 234 projects for a total of \$6 billion, investing \$877 million in GEF resources and mobilizing an additional \$5.1 billion in co-financing from development partners. Out of those 234 projects, biodiversity accounted for 84 projects, climate change for 57, persistent organic pollutants for 29, international waters for 22 and land degradation for 5. Approval was given to 37 multifocal area projects, which took advantage of particular strengths within each focal area and aimed at creating the best synergies possible.

GEF approved 57 new investments in the climate change focal area. The total GEF allocation was approximately \$235.5 million, supplemented with an additional \$1.7 billion generated in co-financing from partners, including the GEF agencies, bilateral agencies, recipient countries, NGOs and the private sector. Biodiversity accounted for 34 per cent of total allocation, with \$295.6 million allocated by GEF and \$1.01 billion generated in co-financing. GEF approved 29 new projects in the persistent organic pollutants focal area. The total GEF allocation was approximately \$73 million, supplemented by an additional \$134 million generated in co-financing from partners. Twenty new projects were approved under land degradation. The total GEF grant for those projects was \$91.8 million, leveraging \$797.1 million in co-financing from partners. The GEF Council approved 14 new projects in the international waters focal area. The total allocation approved by the Council was \$84.4 million, supplemented by an additional \$1 billion generated in co-financing from partners. In addition, the GEF Council approved eight multifocal projects with strong international waters components. In the area of ozone depletion, GEF had approved during the 2007–2008 period a joint effort by UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank on preparing for hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) phase-out in countries with economies in transition. The project was examining ways not only to reduce HCFCs, but also how doing so would help to meet goals under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Following that assessment and planning effort, the Russian Federation had submitted an HCFC phase-out project for funding that brought together

protection of the ozone layer, climate mitigation and technology transfer. The other eligible countries in the region had developed project concepts for future GEF funding as well.

The GEF small grants programme supported 1,262 community-based projects. More than 120 countries were working with UNDP, through projects financially supported by GEF, to establish the policy, institutional and financial frameworks that would help to drive private investment flows towards environmentally sustainable solutions. The World Bank Group's GEF-funded portfolio was composed of 208 projects across all regions, with combined total GEF commitments of \$1.7 billion. The GEF agencies were the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank.

International conventions and mechanisms

In a February note [UNEP/GC.25/INF/7], the Executive Director reviewed the status of conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, covering the period 1 February 2007–31 January 2009. The conventions and protocols that entered into force during that period were the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, adopted in Izmir, Turkey on 1 October 1996, which entered into force on 19 January 2008; the Amendment to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas, adopted in Esbjerg, Denmark, on 22 August 2003, which entered into force on 3 February 2008; the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, adopted in Syracuse, Italy, on 7 March 1996, which entered into force on 11 May 2008; and the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, adopted in London on 5 October 2001, which entered into force on 17 September 2008.

New conventions and protocols concluded during the reporting period included the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007, adopted in Nairobi on 18 May 2007; and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, adopted in Madrid on 21 January 2008. An appendix provided information on changes to the status of ratification for the conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/1 V] welcomed the recommendations [YUN 2008, p. 1155] of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing

Cooperation and Coordination Among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and their adoption by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention [ibid., p. 1173] and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention [ibid., p. 1170]. It requested the Executive Director, in the event of the adoption of those recommendations by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, to undertake relevant actions envisaged in the recommendations.

In May, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention adopted those recommendations [UNEP/POPS/COP.4/38 (SC-4/34)].

Note by Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolutions 63/32 [YUN 2008, p. 1155], 63/218 [ibid., p. 1161] and 63/219 [ibid., p. 1159], the Secretary-General, in a July note [A/64/202] transmitted reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see below), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (see p. 1022) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1018), respectively.

Climate change convention

As at 31 December, 193 States and the European Union (EU) were parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was opened for signature in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 681] and entered into force in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 938]. Iraq and Somalia became parties during the year.

At year's end, 189 States and the EU were parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1048], which entered into force in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1146]. Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Zimbabwe became parties during the year. There were 19 parties to the 2006 amendment to annex B of the Protocol [YUN 2006, p. 1220], which had not yet entered into force. Azerbaijan, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Serbia and the Syrian Arab Republic deposited their instrument of acceptance in 2009. France deposited its instrument of acceptance in August, yet withdrew in October.

The fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (Copenhagen, 7–19 December) [FCCC/CP/2009/11 & Add.1] produced the Copenhagen Accord, which expressed a clear political intent to constrain carbon and respond to climate change, and contained several key elements on which the views of Governments converged, including the long-term goal of limiting the maximum global average temperature increase to no more than 2 degrees Celsius

above pre-industrial levels, subject to a review in 2015. However, there was no agreement on how to achieve that goal in practical terms. The Accord also included a reference to considering limiting the temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees—a key demand made by vulnerable developing countries. Developed countries pledged to fund actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the effects of climate change in developing countries by providing \$30 billion for the period 2010–2012 and to mobilize long-term finance of a further \$100 billion a year by 2020. Close to 115 world leaders attended the Conference's high-level segment, making it one of the largest gatherings of world leaders ever outside UN Headquarters.

The fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held concurrently with the fifteenth UNFCCC Conference session [FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/21 & Add.1], adopted decisions related to the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Protocol; further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism; guidance on implementing article 6 of the Protocol; the report of the Adaptation Fund Board; the review of the Adaptation Fund; the Compliance Committee; capacity-building under the Protocol; the updated training programme for members of expert review teams participating in annual reviews under article 8 of the Protocol; administrative, financial and institutional matters; and the programme budget for the 2010–2011 biennium.

In November, the Executive Board of the Protocol's clean development mechanism issued its annual report [FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/16], covering its work from 25 October 2008 to 16 October 2009.

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) [FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3 & Add.1] and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) [FCCC/SBI/2009/8 & Add.1] held their thirtieth sessions (Bonn, Germany, 1–10 June). SBSTA [FCCC/SBSTA/2009/8] and SBI [FCCC/SBI/2009/15] also held their thirty-first sessions (Copenhagen, 8–12 December).

Communication. On 12 May [A/64/81], Namibia, as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitted to the Secretary-General a resolution adopted by the one hundred and twentieth Assembly of the Union (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10 April) on climate change, sustainable development models and renewable energies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 59], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.4], adopted **resolution 64/73** without vote [agenda item 53 (d)].

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008 and resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007, the outcome of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Poznan, Poland, from 1 to 12 December 2008, and the outcomes of all previous sessions,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, face increased risks from the adverse effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

Noting that, to date, there are one hundred and ninety-four parties to the Convention, including one hundred and ninety-three States and one regional economic integration organization,

Noting also that, currently, the Kyoto Protocol has attracted one hundred and ninety ratifications, accessions, acceptances or approvals, including by thirty-nine parties included in annex I to the Convention,

Noting further the amendment to annex B to the Kyoto Protocol,

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific

and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

Noting also the significance of the scientific findings of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, providing an integrated scientific, technical and socio-economic perspective on relevant issues and contributing positively to the discussions under the Convention and the understanding of the phenomenon of climate change, including its impacts and risks,

Reaffirming that economic and social development and poverty eradication are global priorities,

Recognizing that deep cuts in global emissions will be required to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

Reaffirming the financial obligations of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

Taking note of the initiative by the Secretary-General in convening a summit on climate change on 22 September 2009, and welcoming the determination reiterated by Member States on that occasion to urgently address the challenge of climate change,

Taking note also of the holding of World Climate Conference 3 in Geneva from 31 August to 4 September 2009 and the holding by the Government of Indonesia of the World Ocean Conference in Manado from 11 to 15 May 2009,

Taking note further of the high-level conference on "Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer", held in New Delhi on 22 and 23 October 2009,

Acknowledging women as key actors in the efforts towards sustainable development, and recognizing that a gender perspective can contribute to efforts to address climate change,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

1. *Stresses* the seriousness of climate change, and calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the urgent implementation of its provisions;

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change welcome the entry into force of the Protocol on 16 February 2005, and strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Poland from 1 to 12 December 2008;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Denmark to host the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009;

5. *Notes* the ongoing parallel work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, and that the respective parties to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol call for the completion of this work;

6. *Encourages* Member States to approach Copenhagen with ambition, optimism and determination, with a view to making the United Nations Climate Change Conference a success;

7. *Takes note with appreciation*, in this regard, of the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Mexico City in 2010;

8. *Urges* parties to the Convention, and invites parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention, to continue to make use of the information contained in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in their work;

9. *Recognizes* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges to all countries, particularly developing countries, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, including those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and calls upon States to take urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and in this regard urges all countries to fully implement their commitments under the Convention, to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhance international cooperation in the framework of the Convention;

10. *Reaffirms* that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhances the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries and the eradication of poverty should be carried out by promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner;

11. *Recognizes* the urgency of providing financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology, to assist those developing countries adversely affected by climate change;

12. *Invites* the international community to fulfil the commitments made during the fourth replenishment and to secure a successful fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, without prejudice to ongoing discussions on financial mechanisms under the Convention;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

14. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Framework Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages close cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

15. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multi-lateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

16. *Invites* the secretariat of the Framework Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind”.

Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

As at 31 December, 195 States and the EU were parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804], which entered into force in 1988 [YUN 1988, p. 810]. Andorra, San Marino and Timor-Leste became parties during the year.

Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was adopted in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 686], numbered 195 States and the EU, with Andorra, San Marino and Timor-Leste becoming parties during the year. Parties to the 1990 Amendment to the Protocol [YUN 1990, p. 522] numbered 193 States and the EU, with Andorra, Brunei Darussalam, Ethiopia, San Marino and Timor-Leste becoming parties. Parties to the 1992 Amendment [YUN 1992, p. 684] numbered 190 States and the EU, with Andorra, Brunei Darussalam, Ethiopia, Myanmar, San Marino, Tajikistan and Timor-Leste becoming parties. Parties to the 1997 Amendment [YUN 1997, p. 1050] numbered 178 States and the EU, with Andorra, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Malawi, Qatar, San Marino, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tajikistan and Timor-Leste becoming parties. Parties to the 1999 Amendment [YUN 1999, p. 986] numbered 160 States and the EU, with Andorra, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, Qatar, San Marino, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Yemen becoming parties.

The twenty-first meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Port Ghalib, Egypt, 4–8 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.21/8] adopted 32 decisions, including on environmentally sound alternatives to HCFCs, environmentally sound management of banks of ozone-depleting substances, methyl bromide and management and reduction of remaining uses of halons.

The Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure held its forty-second (Geneva, 20–21 July) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.ImpCom/42/5] and forty-third meetings (Port Ghalib, 31 October–1 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.ImpCom/43/5].

Convention on air pollution

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution [YUN 1979, p. 710], which entered into force in 1983 [YUN 1983, p. 645], remained at 50 States and the EU. Eight protocols to the Convention dealt with the programme for monitoring and evaluation of pollutants in Europe (1984); the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent (1985); the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes (1988); the control of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes (1991); the further reduction of sulphur emissions (1994); heavy metals (1998); persistent organic pollutants (1998); and the abatement of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone (1999).

The twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 14–18 December) [ECE/EB.AIR/99 & Add.1,2] adopted amendments of: the text of and annexes I, II, III, IV, VI and VIII to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants [ECE/EB.AIR/99/Add.1 (dec. 2009/1)]; the listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins and polychlorinated naphthalenes in annexes I and II to the Protocol [dec. 2009/2]; and the text of annexes V and VII to the Protocol [dec. 2009/3]. The amendments would enter into force for the parties which accepted them 90 days after the date on which two thirds of the parties had deposited their instruments of acceptance thereof. As at 31 December, no State had deposited its instrument of acceptance to either of the amendments.

Convention on Biological Diversity

As at 31 December, 192 States and the EU were parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 683], which entered into force in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 810]. Iraq and Somalia became parties during the year.

At year's end, the number of parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 973] and entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1051], stood at 157 States and the EU. Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Malawi and Pakistan became parties during the year.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice did not meet in 2009.

Science-policy interface

Pursuant to a request of the ad hoc international and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services [YUN 2008, p. 1159], the UNEP Executive Director in January submitted a report [UNEP/GC.25/INF/30] on the preliminary gap analysis carried out by UNEP to facilitate discussions on improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being.

The Governing Council in February [A/64/25 (dec. 25/10)] invited Governments and organizations to explore mechanisms to improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. It requested the Executive Director to support those efforts by Governments and organizations; report on progress at the special session on biodiversity of the sixty-fifth (2010) session of the General Assembly; and convene a second intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting in 2009 following completion of the full gap analysis on exploring mechanisms to improve the interface.

Participants at the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Nairobi, 5–9 October) [UNEP/GCSS.XI/7] considered the findings of the full gap analysis on science-policy interfaces on biodiversity and ecosystem services. There was recognition that the science-policy interface could be improved by strengthening existing mechanisms, but a new mechanism could add value in areas in which strengthening was inadequate. The Chair's summary of the meeting was annexed to the report.

International Year of Biodiversity

In February, recalling General Assembly resolution 61/203 [YUN 2006, p. 1225], by which the Assembly declared 2010 the "International Year of Biodiversity", the Council [dec. 25/3] invited Governments and organizations to undertake appropriate activities to celebrate the Year and to contribute to the success of the tenth meeting (2010) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.6], adopted **resolution 64/203** without vote [agenda item 53 (f)].

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 61/204 of 20 December 2006, 62/194 of 19 December 2007 and 63/219 of 19 December 2008 and other previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling also its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010,

Reiterating that the Convention is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Recognizing the potential contribution of other multilateral environmental agreements, including the biodiversity-related conventions, and of international organizations in support of the three objectives of the Convention,

Noting both the positive and the negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity and relevant ecosystems,

Noting also that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention and that one hundred and forty-seven States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is important for sustainable development and poverty eradication and is a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Recognizing the continuing need for greater progress in the implementation of obligations and commitments under the Convention by States parties in order to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, emphasizing the need to comprehensively address the obstacles that impede the full implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels,

Reaffirming that the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is one of the three objectives of the Convention,

Recalling, in this regard, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which all States reaffirmed their engagement to fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and continue ongoing efforts to-

wards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the "Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates, concerned by the negative impacts that loss of biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner with a view to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Acknowledging the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting the important contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

Recalling its resolution 63/219, in which it decided to convene, during its sixty-fifth session in 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government,

Convinced that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity, to be convened at its sixty-fifth session in 2010, with the participation of Heads of State, Governments and delegations, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, provides a valuable opportunity to generate awareness at the highest level of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Taking note of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

Noting the continuing efforts of the Life Web initiative promoted by the Government of Germany and other countries,

Noting also the initiative launched at the meeting of the environment ministers of the Group of Eight in Potsdam, Germany, in March 2007, to develop a study on the economic cost of the global loss of biodiversity,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

2. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

3. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Tech-

nological Cooperation, as a preliminary basis for concrete activities by parties and international organizations;

4. *Takes note* of decision IX/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on access and benefit-sharing, and the annexes thereto, by which the Conference established a road map for the negotiations set out in that decision and, inter alia:

(a) Reiterated its instruction to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to complete the elaboration and negotiation of the international access and benefit-sharing regime at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in accordance with decisions VII/19 D and VIII/4 A;

(b) Further instructed the Working Group to finalize the international regime and to submit for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting an instrument or instruments to effectively implement the provisions of articles 15 and 8 (j) of the Convention and its three objectives, without in any way prejudging or precluding any outcome regarding the nature of such instrument or instruments;

5. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the progress made thus far in the Working Group, invites the Working Group to finalize the international regime, as instructed by the Conference of the Parties, emphasizes the importance of the meeting of the Working Group to be held in March 2010, and in this regard also notes with appreciation the offer of Colombia to host the meeting;

6. *Underlines* the need to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity, and in this regard notes the discussions on an intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and the holding of the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009;

7. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, of the chairpersons of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, aimed at enhancing scientific and technical collaboration for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;

8. *Encourages* the efforts being made to implement the seven thematic programmes of work, as established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the ongoing work on cross-cutting issues;

9. *Encourages* all parties to the Convention to continue to contribute to the discussions leading to an updated strategic plan for the Convention to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, bearing in mind that this strategic plan should cover all three objectives of the Convention, and emphasizes that the revision of the strategic plan beyond 2010 is important for the enhanced implementation of the Convention;

10. *Notes* the progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for South-South cooperation;

11. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

12. *Notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting of a strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, and, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision IX/11 and the annexes thereto, invites parties that have not yet done so to submit, to the secretariat of the Convention, views on concrete activities and initiatives, including measurable targets and/or indicators to achieve the strategic goals contained in the strategy, and on indicators to monitor its implementation;

13. *Takes note* of decision IX/20 of the Conference of the Parties on marine and coastal biodiversity, and the annexes thereto, by which the Conference, inter alia, adopted a set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, contained in annex I to the decision, and scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas, contained in annex II;

14. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in achieving biodiversity targets, and invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships;

15. *Notes* the development of the gender plan of action under the Convention, and invites parties to support the implementation of the plan by the Convention secretariat;

16. *Takes note* of decision IX/16 of the Conference of the Parties on biodiversity and climate change, and the annexes thereto, by which the Conference, inter alia, established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change with a mandate to develop scientific and technical advice on biodiversity insofar as it relates to climate change;

17. *Also takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, established by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IX/16 on biodiversity and climate change;

18. *Further takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

19. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the relevant

trust funds of the Convention so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

20. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

21. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so, reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Protocol to support its implementation, and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

22. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

23. *Decides*, in follow-up to its resolution 63/219, to convene the one-day high-level meeting as close as possible to the opening of the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, and in that regard:

(a) Encourages all Member States to be represented at the highest possible level, including by Heads of State or Government;

(b) Invites heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as heads of intergovernmental organizations and entities having observer status in the General Assembly, as well as the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to participate, as appropriate, in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the General Assembly;

(c) Decides that the President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the meeting;

(d) Decides that the meeting will be structured around an opening plenary meeting followed by thematic panels in the morning and the afternoon, organized within existing resources, which will address in a balanced manner the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Decides also that the meeting will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly and requests the President to prepare a summary of the discussions held during the high-level meeting, for presentation at the closing plenary and for transmission, under his authority, to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, as a contribution to raising awareness of the three objectives of the Convention;

(f) Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a background paper for the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States;

24. *Encourages* all Member States, relevant regional and international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the International

Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including through voluntary contributions, taking advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development;

25. *Encourages* all relevant organs of the United Nations, including functional commissions and regional commissions, as well as all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in, as appropriate, the activities envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, taking into consideration the strategy and implementation plan for the commemoration of the Year prepared by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through a special event or special focus in their annual governing body meetings or high-level ministerial segments and in their annual flagship publications scheduled for 2010;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 11 to 15 October 2010, and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya from 18 to 29 October 2010;

27. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session information on the implementation of resolution 61/203 and the parts of the present resolution relevant to the commemoration of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

Convention to combat desertification

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 958], remained at 193 States and the EU.

The eighth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 23–24 September, 30 September and 1 October) [ICCD/COP(9)/18 & Add.1], which was held concurrently with the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, considered, among other issues, improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties; and a project proposal for assistance to affected country parties in monitoring implementation of the Convention.

The ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Buenos Aires, 21 September–2 October) [ICCD/COP(9)/18 & Add.1 & Corr.1] adopted 36 decisions, including on: mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention; new terms of reference for CRIC; reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology; collaboration with the Global Environment Facility; multi-year workplans for the UNCCD institutions and subsidiary bodies; bringing the implementation of the strategy in a result-based management framework; and the adoption of a minimum set of impact indicators, which paved the way towards target-setting using the agreed indicators to effectively halt and reverse desertification, land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

The Conference of the Parties [ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1 (dec. 6/COP.9)] requested: the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism of the Convention to produce a report containing a work programme and the cost estimate involved in the context of the biennium and medium-term work programme and plan; and the Mechanism to prepare detailed regional work programmes, as well as criteria and guidelines for allocating financial resources from Mechanism funds to affected developing country parties. It also requested an evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Mechanism, including the possibility of identifying a new institution or organization to house it, taking into account the scenarios presented in the JIU report on the Mechanism (see below) and the need to avoid duplication in the work of the secretariat and the Mechanism. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was requested to submit to the tenth (2011) session of the Conference of the Parties a report on the evaluation for consideration and decision on the issue of reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Mechanism.

The Committee on Science and Technology held its ninth session in Buenos Aires concurrently with CRIC. The session included the UNCCD first scientific conference [ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.2 & ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.3].

JIU report. The Secretary-General in September [A/64/379] transmitted to the General Assembly the JIU report entitled "Assessment of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification" [JIU/REP/2009/4]. The inspectors made recommendations for the Conference of the Parties to clearly conceptualize the intended scope of the Convention and agree on the interpretation of key issues, and for the mechanisms identified for resource mobilization to closely interact with the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, avoiding duplication of their technical and policy advisory role, fostering

complementarities and focusing on their specific financial role. The inspectors reported that the Global Mechanism had not sufficiently explored the work already undertaken by other partners, in particular UNEP and its country environmental assessments. On reporting and accountability, although contributions were fully reflected in reports, the inspectors hardly found transparent breakdown information on the end use of those funds, particularly the use of the special resources for Convention finance. JIU also recommended that: the Global Mechanism and the UNCCD secretariat should submit a report to the Conference of the Parties containing a work programme and the cost estimate for their future biennium and medium-term work programme and plan, so that the Conference could exercise governance and oversight over voluntary contributions and core resources; the Mechanism should develop quantitative performance indicators by compiling data and information on the financial resources mobilized as a result of its country and regional interventions; and the Conference should guide the Mechanism in defining a work programme that avoided duplication and overlapping with the mandates of other organizations and bodies. The inspectors proposed three scenarios for enhancing coordination and effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention: improving the status quo; institutional merging of the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism; and converting the Global Mechanism into a desertification and land degradation fund.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.5], adopted **resolution 64/202** without vote [agenda item 53 (e)].

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007, 63/218 of 19 December 2008 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Reasserting its commitment to combating and reversing desertification and land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, consistent with articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, and to mitigating the effects of drought, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development and food security and improving the livelihoods of vulnerable people affected by drought and/or desertifica-

tion, taking into account the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018),

Reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification, land degradation and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

Taking note with appreciation of the decision adopted in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 3 July 2009 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its thirteenth ordinary session, authorizing the African Union to accede to the Convention,

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), in which the Convention is recognized as one of the tools for poverty eradication, and reiterating its resolve to eradicate extreme poverty,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity (“the Rio Conventions”), while respecting their individual mandates,

Welcoming the outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development regarding desertification, land degradation and drought,

Concerned by the increasing frequency and severity of dust/sandstorms affecting arid and semi-arid regions and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Concerned also by the negative impacts that desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change have on each other, recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner, and recognizing also the interrelationship between climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification and the need to intensify efforts to combat desertification and promote sustainable land management,

Recognizing the need for investment in sustainable land management in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and emphasizing the need for the full implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen the scientific basis underpinning the Convention,

Recognizing further the importance given by the ten-year strategic plan and framework to the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Buenos Aires from 21 September to 2 October 2009,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Changwon City, Gyeongnam Province, in autumn 2011,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

2. *Welcomes* the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its policy recommendations, particularly those related to the strengthening of the institutional policy framework and the implementation of practical measures to combat land degradation and desertification in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, enhancing capacity-building, transfer of technology and financing;

3. *Recognizes* the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, and in this regard invites all relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate with the Convention in supporting an effective response to desertification and drought;

4. *Invites* Member States to continue to integrate plans and strategies related to drought, desertification and land degradation into their national development and poverty eradication strategies, as appropriate;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the promotion and strengthening of relationships between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;

6. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities in the work of the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

7. *Encourages* actions to promote sustainable management of soil as one means for mitigating the effects of drought in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas;

8. *Invites* Member States and related organizations to cooperate in sharing information, forecasting and early warning systems related to dust/sandstorms;

9. *Takes note* of the launch of the Global Network of Dryland Research Institutes in Buenos Aires in September 2009 during the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which aims to promote research, education, training and outreach relevant to the sustainable use of drylands;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on Science and Technology, and, in this respect, welcomes the outcome of the first United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conference, held in the context of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the assessment of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as well as the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session requesting the Bureau of the ninth session, together with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the Executive Secretary, and taking into account the views of other interested relevant entities such as the host countries and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to undertake and supervise an evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism and their legal and financial implications, including the possibility of identifying a new institution or organization to house the

Global Mechanism, taking into account the scenarios presented in the Joint Inspection Unit assessment of the Global Mechanism and the need to avoid duplication and overlap in the work of the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, and further requesting the Bureau to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session a report on this evaluation for consideration and decision on the issue of reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism;

12. *Requests* all States parties to the Convention to promote awareness among local populations, particularly women, youth and civil society organizations, and to include them in, the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), and encourages affected States parties and donors to take into account the issue of participation of civil society in Convention processes when setting priorities in national development strategies, in conformity, inter alia, with the comprehensive communication strategy adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session;

13. *Invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility to ensure that the Facility is adequately resourced during the next replenishment period in order to allow it to allocate sufficient and adequate resources to its six focal areas, in particular its land degradation focal area;

14. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue the administrative renewal and reform of the secretariat and to realign its functions in order to fully implement the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and bring those functions into line with the ten-year strategic plan and framework;

15. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2010–2011 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the implementation of the Convention.

United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)

The General Assembly, by resolution 62/195 [YUN 2007, p. 1046], declared the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification. In December, the Assembly designated the UNCCD secretariat as the focal point for the Decade, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant UN entities (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.5], adopted **resolution 64/201** without vote [agenda item 53 (e)].

**United Nations Decade for Deserts and
the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Recalling also its resolution 62/195 of 19 December 2007, in which it decided to declare the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, based on the recommendation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session,

Recalling further its resolutions 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007 and 63/218 of 19 December 2008 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation of desertification in all regions, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability,

Responding to the call of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth session for the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,

Taking into account the success of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006, in raising awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought,

Committed to raising the awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at all levels, consistent with the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018),

1. *Recalls* its decision to declare the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

2. *Designates* the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa as the focal point of the Decade, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

3. *Invites* States parties to the Convention, observers and other relevant stakeholders to organize activities to observe the Decade with the aim of raising awareness of the causes of and solutions to ongoing land degradation and desertification in the framework of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance implementation of the Convention (2008–2018);

4. *Encourages* Member States and multilateral agencies in a position to do so to support the secretariat of the Convention financially and technically, with a view to supporting special initiatives in observance of the Decade as well as other observance events and activities worldwide;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the status of the implementation of the present resolution.

Environmental activities

The atmosphere

High-level summit. The Secretary-General convened a high-level summit on climate change (New York, 22 September) to mobilize the political will and vision needed to reach a substantive agreed outcome at the UN climate talks in Copenhagen (see p. 1015). World leaders gathered to discuss the status of climate negotiations. In his closing remarks [SG/SM/12470], the Secretary-General stated that the message from the Summit was clear that the Copenhagen deal must be comprehensive and ensure enhanced action to assist the most vulnerable and the poorest to adapt to the impacts of climate change; ambitious emission-reduction targets for industrialized countries; nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries with the necessary support; significantly scaled-up financial and technological resources; and an equitable governance structure. He also indicated his intention to set up a high-level panel after the Copenhagen Conference to advise on how to better integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into development.

Communication. On 20 October [A/C.2/64/11], Grenada, as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), transmitted the AOSIS Declaration on Climate Change, adopted by the Heads of State and Government, ministers and heads of delegations at the AOSIS Summit on Climate Change (New York, 21 September).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The thirtieth session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Antalya, Turkey, 21–23 April) was attended by approximately 320 participants and focused mainly on the “scoping process”—identifying issues that should be prioritised for further examination in subsequent stages—for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), with a view to providing guidance to the climate change experts who would define the outline of the Report during its scoping meeting (Venice, Italy, 13–17 July). The Panel adopted proposals on the near-term future of IPCC and the scoping of AR5; decided to proceed with the preparation of a special report on managing the

risks of extreme events and disasters; and agreed to hold expert meetings on topics such as human settlements and the detection and attribution of anthropogenic climate change. Other issues addressed included the revised rules of procedure for the election of the IPCC Bureau and the Task Force Bureau, work on new scenarios and the IPCC Peace Prize Scholarship Fund.

The thirty-first IPCC session (Bali, Indonesia, 26–29 October), attended by some 350 participants, continued to focus primarily on the scoping of AR5. During the meeting, the three IPCC working groups approved the proposed chapter outlines of the working groups' contributions to AR5, which had been developed at the Venice scoping meeting in July. The Panel accepted the outlines of the working groups' reports and considered other issues relevant to the scope of AR5. The Panel discussed progress on involving scientists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition and the use of electronic technologies. It also granted special observer status to the European Commission.

Security implications of climate change

In a 3 June General Assembly meeting [A/63/PV.85], Nauru provided an overview of the vulnerability of Pacific small island developing States (Pacific SIDS) resulting from the small size of their homelands, the volume of ocean surrounding them, and scientists' predictions that the ocean would continue to rise at an increasing rate. Urgent action was needed to address the possibility of a country submerging as a whole. While no UN Member State had ever disappeared, the international community was faced with the threat of losing many States owing to the adverse effects of climate change. On behalf of the Pacific SIDS (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu), Nauru introduced a draft resolution entitled "Climate change and its possible security implications" to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 3 June [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/281** [draft: A/63/L.8/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 107].

Climate change and its possible security implications

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/32 of 26 November 2008 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Recalling also Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, which established the purposes of the United Nations,

Recognizing the respective responsibilities of the principal organs of the United Nations, including the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace

and security conferred upon the Security Council and the responsibility for sustainable development issues, including climate change, conferred upon the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Noting the open debate in the Security Council on "Energy, security and climate" held on 17 April 2007,

Reaffirming that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the key instrument for addressing climate change,

Recalling the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Deeply concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, could have possible security implications,

1. *Invites* the relevant organs of the United Nations, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, to intensify their efforts in considering and addressing climate change, including its possible security implications;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the possible security implications of climate change, based on the views of the Member States and relevant regional and international organizations.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 63/281, the Secretary-General in September submitted a report on climate change and its possible security implications [A/64/350], which summarized the views of 35 Member States, 4 Member State groups and 17 regional and international organizations, including UN agencies and programmes. It identified five channels through which climate change could affect security: vulnerability; development; coping and security; statelessness; and international conflict. Threats arising from those channels were reviewed, including threats to human well-being and economic development; threats from uncoordinated coping; the threat of loss of territory and statelessness; and threats to international cooperation in managing shared resources. It also examined ways of preventing and responding to those threats and outlined the way forward. The need for a comprehensive, fair and effective deal in Copenhagen was emphasized. The report further identified emerging climate change-related threats which merited the attention and increased preparedness of the international community, including, among others, the melting of glaciers and disputes surrounding the opening of the Arctic region to resource exploitation and trade.

Terrestrial ecosystems

Rehabilitation of marshes

On 5 March [E/2009/11], Iraq requested the President of the Economic and Social Council to include a sub-item entitled “Rehabilitation of the marshes in the southern regions of Iraq” under the agenda item entitled “Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development”, due to the need to draw the attention of the international community and regional stakeholders to the ongoing projects by the Government—in collaboration with UN agencies and other countries—to restore the Iraqi marshlands.

On 18 May, the Council included that supplementary sub-item in the provisional agenda of its substantive session of 2009 (**decision 2009/212**); the topic was discussed on 29 July [E/2009/SR.41].

Deforestation and forest degradation

United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), at its eighth session (New York, 27 April 2007 and 20 April–1 May 2009) [E/2009/42], brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs as well as two decisions. The draft resolution called for, among other things, strengthened implementation of sustainable forest management strategies into relevant programmes and processes, such as those on climate change, biodiversity and water resources management; and on countries to undertake national forest inventories and to use market-based approaches to the production and consumption of products from sustainably managed forests. The Forum recommended draft decisions on the report on its eighth session and on the dates, venue and provisional agenda for its ninth (2011) session. It also accredited observer status to one intergovernmental organization [dec. 8/1] and decided to complete consideration of agenda item 6 at its ninth (2011) session [dec. 8/2] (see below).

The Forum had before it reports of the Secretary-General on: achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests [E/CN.18/2009/2]; regional and subregional inputs [E/CN.18/2009/3]; forests and climate change [E/CN.18/2009/4]; reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries [E/CN.18/2009/5]; forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas [E/CN.18/2009/6]; recommendations for addressing key challenges of forests in a changing en-

vironment [E/CN.18/2009/8]; finance and other means of implementation for sustainable forest management [E/CN.18/2009/9]; and enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination [E/CN.18/2009/10]. Also before the Forum were the Chair's summary report of the meeting of the open-ended ad hoc expert group to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing network (Vienna, 10–14 November 2008) [E/CN.18/2009/11]; notes by the Secretariat on: forests in a changing environment: low forest cover countries, SIDS and high and medium forest cover countries [E/CN.18/2009/7]; the multi-stakeholder dialogue [E/CN.18/2009/13]; and the United Nations Trust Fund for UNFF [E/CN.18/2009/15]; and an information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2008 and 2009 [E/CN.18/2009/12].

On 29 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Forum on its eighth session, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session (**decision 2009/242**) and decided that it would be held in New York from 24 January to 4 February 2011 (**decision 2009/241**).

Also on 29 July 2009, the Council, recalling UNFF [dec. 8/2] of 1 May, by which the Forum decided to complete the consideration at its ninth (2011) session of agenda item 6 (means of implementation for sustainable forest management), based on the bracketed draft text developed in informal consultations during its eighth (2009) session [E/CN.18/2009/WP.1], noted that the Chair of the ninth session intended to undertake informal consultations in order to reach agreement among all Member States on the substantive issues in that text and authorized the holding of a one-day special session for the purpose of adopting the agreed text (**decision 2009/240**).

At the UNFF special session of the ninth session (New York, 30 October) [E/2009/118], the Forum brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council a resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management, which established an open-ended, intergovernmental ad hoc expert group to review all aspects of forest financing and a “facilitative process” on forest financing to assist countries to mobilize funding. The expert group would propose strategies to mobilize resources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management; the achievement of the global objectives on forests; and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The facilitative process would assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources for sustainable forest management; facilitate transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building to developing countries; provide advice and share good prac-

tices; and enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among funding sources and mechanisms.

On 15 December, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report on the UNFF special session (**decision 2009/268**).

Communications. Four documents on various 2008 activities were transmitted to UNFF by Governments, including the proceedings of the pan-European workshop “Forests in a changing environment” [E/CN.18/2009/14] from Finland; the report of the international workshop on forest governance and decentralization in Africa [E/CN.18/2009/16] from South Africa and Switzerland; the summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the international expert meeting on financing for sustainable forest management [E/CN.18/2009/17] from Suriname; and the report of the Australian-Swiss region-led initiative in support of the Forum [E/CN.18/2009/18] from Australia and Switzerland.

International Year of Forests, 2011

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/193 [YUN 2006, p. 1240], the Secretary-General in August submitted a preliminary report [A/64/274] on the state of preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011. The report highlighted initiatives and activities being organized by Governments, the United Nations and other stakeholders to celebrate the Year, and offered recommendations on the next steps, including the convening of a special, one-day high-level event of the Assembly at its sixty-sixth (2011) session in September to generate public awareness and political action towards sustainable forest management.

(For information on illicit international trafficking in forest products, see p. 1107.)

Sustainable mountain development

In response to General Assembly resolution 62/196 [YUN 2007, p. 1073], the Secretary-General submitted a report on sustainable mountain development [A/64/222] prepared by FAO, which described the status of development at the national and international levels, including an analysis of forthcoming challenges; and provided suggestions on promoting and sustaining development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context including that found in chapter 13 of Agenda 21 [YUN 1992, p. 672], the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation [YUN 2002, p. 822] and the MDGs.

Since the last report on the topic [YUN 2007, p. 1072], significant progress had been made on several issues—from raising awareness about the global importance of mountains to the strengthening and creation of institutional arrangements and greater col-

laborative international action to address mountain issues. However, much remained to be done, especially in the light of the often rapid and severe impact on mountain areas from climate change, soaring food prices and migration to urban areas. The Secretary-General recommended, among other things: encouraging the establishment of national committees, bodies and mechanisms to strengthen coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain areas; assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development; promoting the establishment of regional mechanisms for coordinated transboundary cooperation and strengthening existing mechanisms, such as the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention; and encouraging greater engagement by civil society and the private sector in programmes related to sustainable development in mountains. He also recommended increased research efforts to gain a better understanding of the environmental, economic and social drivers of change affecting mountain regions; strengthening the role of women in planning and decision-making in mountain regions; promoting the development of high-quality products and services from mountain areas; and increasing investment and funding for sustainable development in mountain regions through innovative financial mechanisms and approaches, such as debt-for-sustainable development swaps, payment for environmental services and microfinance opportunities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.8], adopted **resolution 64/205** without vote [agenda item 53 (b)].

Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003, 59/238 of 22 December 2004, 60/198 of 22 December 2005 and 62/196 of 19 December 2007,

Reaffirming chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002,

which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

Noting also the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ("Mountain Partnership"), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of fifty countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and ninety-six organizations from major groups, as an important multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting further the conclusions of the global meetings of the members of the Mountain Partnership, held, respectively, in Merano, Italy, in October 2003 and in Cusco, Peru, in October 2004, and the first Andean Meeting of the Andean Initiative, held in San Miguel Tucuman, Argentina, in September 2007,

Noting the outcome of the meeting of the Adelboden Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions, which met in Rome from 1 to 3 October 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of the sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, and recognizes the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity and other natural resources, including timber and minerals, as providers of some sources of renewable energy, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, all of which generate positive, unaccounted economic benefits;
3. *Recognizes* that mountains provide sensitive indications of climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that are having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena and promote adaptation measures;
4. *Also recognizes* that sustainable mountain development is a key component in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in many regions of the world;
5. *Encourages* greater consideration of sustainable mountain development issues in intergovernmental discussions on climate change, biodiversity loss and combating desertification in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Forum on Forests;
6. *Notes with concern* that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems, and that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest in a given country;
7. *Encourages* Governments to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches in their sustainable development strategies, and to promote integrated approaches to policies related to sustainable development in mountain regions;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to integrate mountain sustainable development in national, regional and global policymaking and development strategies, including through incorporating mountain-specific requirements in sustainable development policies or through specific mountain policies;

9. *Notes* that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and watershed degradation, the frequency and scale of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining and agriculture and the consequences of climate change and loss of biodiversity are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Underlines* the importance of sustainable forest management, the avoidance of deforestation and the restoration of lost and degraded forest ecosystems of mountains in order to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators;

11. *Notes* that sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the regional economy;

12. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries, and urges the international community to take concrete steps to support national and regional efforts to ensure the sustainable development of mountains;

13. *Encourages* Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to improve the awareness, preparedness and infrastructure to reduce risks of disasters and to cope with the increasing adverse impact of disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as landslides, debris flow and earthquakes and, in this regard, to take advantage of opportunities provided by International Mountain Day on 11 December 2009, which is dedicated to disaster risk management;

14. *Calls upon* Governments, with the collaboration of the scientific community, mountain communities and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate, to study, with a view to promoting sustainable mountain development, the specific concerns of mountain communities, including the adverse impact of climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate sustainable adaptation strategies and subsequently implement adequate measures to cope with the adverse effects of climate change;

15. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

16. *Encourages* the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional levels, where appropriate, to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

17. *Also encourages* the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in particular the rural population, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

18. *Underlines* the need for improved access to resources, including land, for women in mountain regions, as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

19. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including gender-disaggregated indicators, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

20. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

21. *Underscores* the need to take into account relevant articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

22. *Recalls with satisfaction* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a programme of work on mountain biological diversity, the overall purpose of which is a significant reduction in the loss of mountain biological diversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels, and its implementation, which aims at making a significant contribution to poverty eradication in mountain regions;

23. *Invites* States and other stakeholders to strengthen implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity through renewed political commitment and the establishment of appropriate multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms, and in this regard notes with satisfaction the collaboration established between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Forum to mobilize concerned Governments and other stakeholders for more effective cooperation and to assist in building capacity for implementation of the programme of work;

24. *Recognizes* that many developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other collaborative approaches;

25. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchange of best practices, information and appropriate environmentally sound technologies for sustainable mountain development, and encourages Member States and relevant organizations in this regard;

26. *Notes* that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high level of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship mountain communities face;

27. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions, particularly in developing countries;

28. *Underlines* the importance for sustainable mountain development of exploring a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microcredit and microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, and support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small- and medium-sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

29. *Encourages* the further development of sustainable agricultural value chains and the improvement of access to and participation in markets for mountain farmers and agro-industry enterprises, with a view to substantially increasing the income of farmers, in particular smallholders and family farmers;

30. *Welcomes* the growing contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and socio-economic benefits to local communities and the fact that consumer demand is increasingly moving towards responsible and sustainable tourism;

31. *Notes* that public awareness needs to be raised with respect to the positive and unaccounted economic benefits that mountains provide not only to highland communities, but also to a large portion of the world's population living in lowland areas, and underlines the importance of enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and of developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

32. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches, where the States concerned agree, to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

33. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, that the Convention on the Protection of the Alps promotes constructive new approaches to the integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, as well as the Declaration on Population and Culture, the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps, cooperation with other convention bodies on relevant subjects and activities in the context of the Mountain Partnership;

34. *Also notes with appreciation* the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

35. *Further notes with appreciation* the work of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which promotes transboundary cooperation among eight country members of the Himalaya Hindu Kush to foster action and change for overcoming the economic, social and physical vulnerability of mountain peoples;

36. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the statement of the Adelboden Group in promoting specific policies, appropriate institutions and processes for mountain regions and the positive, unaccounted economic benefits they provide;

37. *Stresses* the importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and promoting educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of challenges to and best practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and in the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

38. *Underlines* the importance of higher education in and for mountain areas in order to expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in mountain areas, recognizes, in this context, recent and important initiatives at the regional level, such as the creation of three university campuses, in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and the creation of the Himalayan University Consortium, and encourages similar efforts in other mountain regions around the world;

39. *Encourages* the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change created by the International Year of Mountains in 2002 and the opportunity provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December;

40. *Encourages* Member States to collect and produce information and to establish monitoring systems on biophysical and socio-economic data devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

41. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the efforts of the Inter-Agency Group on Mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

42. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, invites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider participating actively in the Mountain Partnership to increase its value, and invites the Partnership secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session, in 2010, including in regard to the thematic issues of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;

43. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

44. *Also notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts to improve strategic cooperation among the institutions and initiatives dealing with mountain development, such as the Mountain Forum, the Mountain Partnership, the Mountain Research Initiative and the International Mountain Society;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Drought and desertification

The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its seventeenth session (New York, 4–15 May) [E/2009/29] (see p. 799), considered a report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.17/2009/6] on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation in the area of drought. The report stated that policies to reduce the impacts of drought needed to be developed and adapted at all levels with the participation of all stakeholders. In addition to natural resources conservation and structural adaptation to climatic variability, policies that focused on exploiting alternative sources of water, such as rainwater harvesting, water treatment and reuse, were crucial. A more sustained impact could be ensured if policies were consistent with traditional community-based strategies for coping with drought and climate change; traditional knowledge and methods concerning soil and water conservation needed to be promoted as a cost-effective solution. Improving access by develop-

ing countries to drought-tolerant crop varieties was essential for agricultural production and food security in drought-affected regions. Reducing pastoral poverty would require Governments, NGOs and development partners to shift their focus from relief efforts to strategies aimed at resource mobilization, infrastructure development and capacity-building.

The Commission also had before it the report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.17/2009/7] on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation in the area of desertification. According to the report, in addition to addressing the root causes of land degradation, national policies aimed at combating desertification needed to take into account the linkages among land degradation, desertification and poverty in an integrated manner. Policies aimed at improving the productivity of land, reducing soil erosion and reversing salinization trends achieved better results if they were owned by local communities. Promoting regional cooperation in the form of sharing of information, knowledge and best practices would allow positive gains to be made. Combining implementation of land administration policies with land planning and management policies would yield quick benefits in terms of promoting sustainable land-use practices and addressing the factors causing land degradation. Improved land tenure security could encourage farmers to invest in soil and water conservation, while building partnerships might help in realizing much-needed technology transfer and capacity-building to protect the integrity of ecosystems. Community-based organizations needed to be encouraged to assume greater responsibility for natural resources management.

In May, the Commission adopted a resolution [E/2009/29 (res. 17/1)] on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, which presented, among other measures, actions to address drought and desertification.

Marine ecosystems

Oceans and seas

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/111 [YUN 2008, p. 1497], the tenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (New York, 17–19 June) [A/64/131] focused on the implementation of the outcomes of the Consultative Process, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings in its first nine meetings. Participants discussed the mandate, objectives and role of the Process; outcomes of the Process and their implementation; format and work methods of the Process; and issues which could benefit from attention in the future work of the Process.

The Assembly took action with regard to the Consultative Process in section XIV of **resolution 64/71** of 4 December (see p. 1361).

Communication. On 28 April [A/63/839], Kazakhstan transmitted the joint statement of Heads of State-founders of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), adopted on 28 April in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Assessment of assessments

The start-up phase of the “assessment of assessments” [YUN 2004, p. 1332] of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, was completed in 2009 with the delivery of the final report to the General Assembly.

In February, the UNEP Governing Council [A/64/25 (dec. 25/2 I)], taking note of the “assessment of assessments” progress report endorsed by the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the “assessment of assessments” at its third meeting [YUN 2008, p. 1167], invited Governments and other parties to contribute financially to enable the completion of the “assessment of assessments” and its submission to the Assembly.

The Group of Experts for the start-up phase of the “assessment of assessments”, selected by the Ad Hoc Steering Group in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1242], held its fifth and final meeting (Geneva, 19–21 March 2009) [GRAME/GOE/5/1]. The meeting focused on the finalization of the report manuscript following peer and institutional review in preparation for submission to the Ad Hoc Steering Group meeting. The process for final copy-editing, design and layout of the final outputs was agreed, including a timeline for submission to the Assembly.

The Ad Hoc Steering Group for the “assessment of assessments”, established by Assembly resolution 60/30 [YUN 2005, p. 1436], held its fourth and last meeting (Paris, 15–17 April) [GRAME/AHSG/4/2]. The meeting discussed the reports presented at the fourth [YUN 2008, p. 1167] and fifth meetings of the Group of Experts, and the Secretariat reported on the peer review process and subsequent editorial process for the “assessment of assessments” report and a financial report on the resources mobilized for the execution of the start-up phase of the regular process.

In letters dated 11 May [A/64/88], the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and UNEP transmitted to the Secretary-General the report on the “assessment of assessments”, to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth (2009) session. The report would serve as a basis for discussions by the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (New York, 31 August–4 September).

The Assembly, in section XII of **resolution 64/71** of 4 December (see p. 1360), endorsed the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group [A/64/347], which proposed a framework for the regular process, described its first cycle and a way forward, and stressed the need for further progress to be made on the modalities for implementing the regular process prior to the Assembly's sixty-fifth (2010) session. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene an informal meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole from 30 August to 3 September 2010 to make recommendations to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth (2010) session on the modalities for implementing the regular process, and to specify the objective and scope of its first cycle, key questions and primary target audiences, in order to ensure that assessments were relevant for decision-makers; and on the terms of reference for a voluntary trust fund that would support the operations of the first five-year cycle of the regular process. The Secretary-General was also requested to invite the Chairs of the regional groups to constitute a group of a maximum of 25 experts to make suggestions to the Working Group.

Regional Seas Programme

The eleventh Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Bangkok, 5–8 October) discussed partnerships between Regional Seas Programmes and UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements and civil society; biodiversity within ecosystem-based management; biodiversity and the Regional Seas Programmes; implementation of biodiversity targets; and strengthening the Regional Seas Alliance.

Protection against harmful products and waste

Chemical safety

As at 31 December, 130 States and the EU were parties to the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [YUN 1998, p. 997], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1063]. Costa Rica, Malawi, Serbia and Trinidad and Tobago became parties during the year.

The Chemical Review Committee, a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, at its fifth meeting (Rome, 23–27 March) [UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.5/16], considered the Bureau's preliminary review of notifications and proposed priorities scheduled for review by the Committee [UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.5/2/Rev.1]; reviewed notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict eight chemicals; and finalized the draft decision guidance documents for alachlor and aldicarb and decided to send the recommendations to

include them in Annex III of the Convention to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

International chemicals management

The UNEP Executive Director in January submitted a report [UNEP/GC.25/INF/22] providing information on the activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals [YUN 2002, p. 1063] to implement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) [YUN 2006, p. 1246].

The UNEP Governing Council in February [dec. 25/5 I], welcoming the progress made in implementing the Strategic Approach, requested the Executive Director to strengthen support for implementation of the Approach and its secretariat, and facilitate more robust efforts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ensure the sound management of chemicals, in particular by ensuring that projects and programmes discussed under the Quick Start Programme [YUN 2006, p. 1246] were processed and implemented expeditiously. It urged Governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and others to contribute financially and in kind to the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (Geneva, 11–15 May) [SAICM/ICCM.2/15] discussed various aspects related to implementation of the Strategic Approach, including the evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and update of the Approach; implementation of and coherence among international instruments and programmes; modalities for stakeholder reporting on progress in implementation; strengthening of national chemicals management capacities; financial and technical resources for implementation; emerging policy issues; and information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation. Delegates adopted 10 resolutions, including on rules of procedure of the Conference, regional activities and coordination, emerging policy issues, the establishment of an open-ended working group, financial and technical resources, managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, and health aspects of the sound management of chemicals. Having established an open-ended working group as a subsidiary body, the Conference decided not to integrate the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety [YUN 1994, p. 942] into the Conference.

Lead and cadmium

In response to a 2007 Governing Council decision [YUN 2007, p. 1078], the Executive Director submitted a note [UNEP/GC.25/INF/23] containing a review of

scientific information on lead; an overview of existing and future national actions, including legislation, relevant to lead; and an inventory of risk management measures. A January addendum [UNEP/GC.25/INF/23/Add.1] contained a study on the health and environmental effects of the movement of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury in Africa.

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/5 II] took note of the study and of the key findings of the review submitted by the Executive Director, including that, because those metals had relatively short residence time in the atmosphere, they were mainly transported over local, national or regional distances. It also noted that the export of new and used products containing lead and cadmium remained a challenge for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which lacked the capacity to manage and dispose of the substances in products in an environmentally sound manner. The Council encouraged efforts by Governments and others to reduce risks to human health and the environment of lead and cadmium throughout the life cycle of those substances and to take action to promote the use of lead and cadmium-free alternatives, for instance in toys and paint. The Council acknowledged the efforts made by Governments and others to phase out lead from gasoline, in particular through the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles [YUN 2003, p. 1070], and urged Governments in transition to phase out lead from gasoline as early as possible. The Executive Director was requested to facilitate that work in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; to address the data and information gaps identified in the UNEP reviews of scientific information on cadmium and lead; and to finalize the scientific review and report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth (2011) session.

Mercury

In response to a 2007 Governing Council decision [YUN 2007, p. 1078], the Executive Director in January submitted an executive summary of a 2008 report entitled "Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport" [UNEP/GC.25/INF/26], as well as an addendum to that report [UNEP/GC.25/INF/26/Add.1].

Also in January [UNEP/GC.25/INF/25], the Executive Director provided the report of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury (Nairobi, 6–10 October 2008) [YUN 2008, p. 1171].

In February 2009, the Executive Director submitted the executive summary [UNEP/GC.25/INF/28] of the report on the extent of contaminated sites, which provided information on the global study on contaminated sites. The study confirmed that it was difficult

to develop robust data on the extent of contaminated sites and/or quantification of releases/pollution due to limited data available. As both the atmospheric mercury emissions and mercury inputs and distribution in the aquatic environment depended strongly on the climatic conditions and the topography of the site in question, extrapolations from a few well studied cases were associated with significant uncertainties. According to the report, total mercury emissions to the atmosphere and hydrosphere from contaminated sites were estimated to be between 150 to 300 metric tonnes per year. Releases from contaminated sites were estimated to contribute less than 5 per cent of total mercury emissions from anthropogenic sources annually. However, those secondary mercury sources would continue to emit mercury for a very long time if not managed properly or remediated. Poor management of contaminated sites might further increase the level of releases, resulting in an increased risk for local populations and ecosystems. Remediation of such sites could be expensive and decisions on when to treat were complex. Further studies were needed for the development and implementation of effective programmes to protect the populations residing in or near mercury-contaminated sites. An integrated approach for managing contaminated sites should be developed, including guidelines for characterization and remediation.

The Governing Council in February [dec. 25/5 III] agreed to further international action through the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on mercury, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, together with interim activities, to reduce risks to human health and the environment. It requested the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare that instrument, beginning its work in 2010 with the goal of completing it prior to the Council's twenty-seventh (2013) regular session. The committee was to develop a comprehensive approach to mercury, including provisions to: specify the objectives of the instrument; reduce the supply of mercury and enhance the capacity for its environmentally sound storage; reduce its demand in products and processes; reduce its international trade; reduce its atmospheric emissions; address mercury-containing waste and remediation of contaminated sites; increase knowledge through awareness-raising and scientific information exchange; specify arrangements for capacity-building and technical and financial assistance; and address compliance. In its deliberations, the committee should consider: flexibility; approaches tailored to the characteristics of specific sectors; technical and economic availability of mercury-free alternative products and processes; the need to achieve co-operation and coordination and to avoid duplication with other international agreements and processes;

prioritization of the various sources of mercury releases for action; possible co-benefits of conventional pollutant control measures and other environmental benefits; efficient organization and streamlined secretariat arrangements; and measures to address risks to health and the environment as a consequence of anthropogenic mercury releases.

The Council requested the Executive Director to convene an ad-hoc open-ended working group, which would meet in the second half of 2009 to prepare for the work of the committee. The Executive Director would provide the necessary support to the committee, while the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics would serve as secretariat of the committee and the working group. To assist the committee, the Council requested the Executive Director to conduct a study on various types of mercury-emitting sources, as well as trends of mercury emissions, with a view to analysing and assessing the costs and effectiveness of alternative control technologies and measures. The Executive Director was also requested to continue work in a number of specified areas; to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the UNEP mercury programme and the Global Mercury Partnership and Governments, mercury-related activities under SAICM and its Quick Start Programme, convention secretariats, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the private sector; and to update the report entitled "Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport" for consideration by the Council's twenty-seventh (2013) session.

Pursuant to the Council's decision, the Executive Director in November submitted a progress report on mercury [UNEP/GCSS.XI/6] on the outcomes of the ad hoc open-ended working group meeting (Bangkok, 19–23 October). The meeting was attended by representatives of 101 Governments, one regional economic integration organization, six intergovernmental organizations and a number of NGOs. The working group agreed on draft rules of procedure to be recommended to the committee, in addition to work for the secretariat to undertake in preparation for the committee's first session, including compiling options for the instrument's structure and descriptions of options for substantive provisions. The negotiation process would involve five committee sessions, with the last session to be held prior to the twenty-seventh (2013) regular session of the Governing Council, followed by a diplomatic conference later in 2013, at which the text of the agreement would be opened for signature.

The report also reviewed progress under the Global Mercury Partnership. The Governing Council initiated those partnerships in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1162]; they were formalized in 2008 through the development of the framework for the Partnership, which

established the overall goal of protecting health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and ultimately eliminating global anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land. The first meeting of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group (Geneva, 31 March–2 April) assessed the work under way in the seven partnership areas to consider potential outputs, targets and milestones that might inform the work of the negotiating committee. The Advisory Group made recommendations based on the efforts identified in the partnership area business plans to encourage the Partnership's work.

Persistent organic pollutants

As at 31 December, 168 States and the EU were parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) [YUN 2001, p. 971], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1066]. Cameroon, Indonesia, Malawi, Serbia, Tonga and Turkey became parties during the year.

At the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (Geneva, 4–8 May) [UNEP/POPS/COP.4/38], the Convention was amended for the first time to include nine new chemicals: alpha hexachlorocyclohexane; beta hexachlorocyclohexane; hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl; tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl; chlordecone; hexabromobiphenyl; lindane; pentachlorobenzene; and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride. The meeting adopted 35 decisions. It endorsed the establishment of a global alliance for the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control; approved the programme activities and operational budgets for 2010 and 2011, respectively in the amounts of \$5,839,267 and \$5,873,643; adopted the indicative scale of contributions for the apportionment of expenses for 2010–2011; and decided to keep the working capital reserve at the level of 8.3 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budget. The high-level segment (7–8 May) addressed the theme "Meeting the challenges of a POPs-free future". More than 800 participants, representing approximately 149 Governments as well as UN bodies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, attended the meeting.

The fifth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (Geneva, 12–16 October) [UNEP/POPS/POPRC.5/10] reviewed data on three chemicals proposed for listing in the Convention: short-chained chlorinated paraffins, hexabromocyclododecane and endosulfan.

Hazardous wastes

As at 31 December, 171 States and the EU were parties to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420], which entered into force in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 685]. The 1995 amendment to the Convention [YUN 1995, p. 1333], not yet in force, had been ratified, accepted or approved by 68 parties, with Chile, Ireland, Italy and Kenya becoming parties during 2009. The number of parties to the 1999 Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1999, p. 998], not yet in force, rose to 10, with Yemen becoming a party in 2009.

The first meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the ninth meeting [YUN 2008, p. 1173] of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 23–24 June) [UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/9/1/9] discussed enforcement of the Convention and combating illegal traffic; the 2006 Nairobi Declaration of the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting; the preparation of draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes and revised technical guidelines on used tyres; ship dismantling matters, including the International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships; cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; and a way forward to attain the objectives of the Basel Convention and the Ban Amendment, namely to protect countries without adequate capacity to manage hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner from unwanted imports of hazardous waste, and to ensure that the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, especially to developing countries, led to an environmentally sound management of those wastes.

The seventh session of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (Geneva, 25–26 June) [UNEP/CHW/CC/7/10] discussed improving national reporting by States parties, illegal traffic, organization of the work of the Committee for 2009–2011, and general issues of compliance and implementation of the Convention.

(For information on the human rights aspects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, see p. 728.)

Waste management

In February [dec. 25/8], the Governing Council welcomed the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Conven-

tion at its ninth meeting in June 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 1173] and requested the Executive Director to assist developing countries in strengthening national implementation of an integrated waste management approach; to support the implementation of the actions envisaged in the Bali Declaration; to strengthen support for capacity-building and technology support in the field of waste management; and to undertake demonstration and pilot projects, in cooperation with relevant actors, including UNIDO and UNDP. The Council called on Governments and other stakeholders to strengthen public-private partnership to provide additional means for assisting developing countries to implement the Basel Convention, including for the construction of facilities and infrastructure in waste management. The Council recognized the need for awareness-raising to change the attitude of waste generators, particularly industrial and municipal waste generators, consumers and the informal sector with regard to the “3Rs” concept (reduce, reuse and recycle), environmentally sound waste management and the need for final disposal of wastes in the States in which they were generated. Governments and organizations were invited to provide extrabudgetary resources in support of UNEP and the secretariat of the Basel Convention. The Executive Director was requested to report to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2011) session.

Financing the chemicals and wastes agenda

In a December note on financing the chemicals and wastes agenda [UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/8], the Executive Director recalled that the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes management was launched in recognition of the need for adequate resources in that field and was first announced at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Geneva, 4–8 May) (see p. 1035) as a response to difficulties encountered in reaching agreement on a compliance mechanism owing to concerns that the available capacity and resources for such a mechanism were inadequate. The objective of the consultations would be to analyse the financing situation at the national level and devise proposals for improving it. A brainstorming meeting (Nairobi, 24–25 July) was held to initiate the process, during which participants called on UNEP to undertake a study to explore the funding and support needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and ways to support compliance with chemicals and waste-related multilateral environment agreements and capacity-building. UNEP prepared a preliminary study and submitted it to the second meeting of the consultative group (Bangkok, 25–26 October).

At that meeting, the consultative group provided feedback on the preliminary study and requested UNEP to revise it so that it could become a reference document that would form the basis of further discussions. The revised desk study, annexed to the note of the Executive Director, outlined the range of options for securing adequate financing.

Other matters

Environmental law

The Executive Director in February reported [UNEP/GC.25/INF/15/Add.1] on the implementation of the third Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme III) [YUN 2001, p. 972] from its adoption in February 2001 to January 2009. The report highlighted UNEP activities and developments in the Programme.

In February [dec. 25/11 I], the Governing Council adopted the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law [YUN 2008, p. 1174] as a broad strategy for the international law community and UNEP in formulating the activities in the field of environmental law for the decade beginning in 2010. It requested the Executive Director to implement the Programme in close collaboration with States, conferences of the parties to and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations, non-State stakeholders and individuals. The Executive Director was also requested to undertake a midterm review of the implementation and effectiveness of the Programme no later than at the twenty-eighth (2015) session of the Governing Council and to report at the thirtieth (2019) session on the impact of the Programme.

The Council took note [dec. 25/11 II] of the draft guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters [YUN 2008, p. 1175] and requested the secretariat to carry out further work on the guidelines with a view to their adoption by the Council at its next (2010) special session. Pursuant to that request, the Executive Director in December [UNEP/GCSS.XI/8] submitted a report containing the draft guidelines, as well as the report [UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/6] of the intergovernmental meeting held to review and further develop the draft guidelines (Nairobi, 12–13 November).

The Council took note [dec. 25/11 III] of the draft guidelines for the development of national legislation on liability, response action and compensation for damage caused by activities dangerous to the environment [YUN 2008, p. 1175] and requested the secretariat to carry out further work on the guidelines with a

view to adoption by the Council at its next (2010) special session. Pursuant to that request, the Executive Director in December [UNEP/GCSS.XI/8/Add.1] submitted a report containing the draft guidelines, as well as the report [UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/6/Add.1] of the intergovernmental meeting held to review and further develop the draft guidelines (Nairobi, 12–13 November).

International Mother Earth Day

On 22 April [A/63/PV.80], the General Assembly considered and took action on a draft resolution entitled “International Mother Earth Day”, authored by Bolivia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 April [meeting 80], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/278** [draft: A/63/L.69 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 49 (d)].

International Mother Earth Day

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming Agenda 21, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also its resolution 60/192 of 22 December 2005 proclaiming 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth,

Acknowledging that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home, and convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth,

Recognizing that Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit,

Noting that Earth Day is observed each year in many countries,

1. *Decides* to designate 22 April as International Mother Earth Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of International Mother Earth Day, as appropriate;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

Harmony with nature

In December, the General Assembly, recalling resolution 37/7 [YUN 1982, p. 1024] on the 1982 World Charter for Nature, which highlighted the need for appropriate measures to protect nature and promote international cooperation in that field and presented

principles of conservation by which human conduct affecting nature was to be guided, took action on the item on “harmony with nature”.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420], adopted **resolution 64/196** without vote [agenda item 53].

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Expressing its concern over the documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity,

Recalling the 1982 World Charter for Nature,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming also Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Reaffirming its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009 on the designation of International Mother Earth Day,

Convinced that humanity can and should live in harmony with nature,

1. *Invites* Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and international, regional and subregional organizations to consider, as appropriate, the issue of promoting life in harmony with nature and to transmit to the Secretary-General their views, experiences and proposals on this issue;

2. *Invites* all Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and international, regional and subregional organizations to make use of International Mother Earth Day, as appropriate, to promote activities and exchange opinions and views on conditions, experiences and principles for a life in harmony with nature;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session a sub-item entitled “Harmony with Nature”, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its sixty-fifth session, a report on this theme, taking into account the views and comments received in relation to the present resolution.

the Habitat Agenda [YUN 1996, p. 994], adopted by the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) [ibid., p. 992], and on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Considerable progress had been made in implementing the 2008–2013 UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan [YUN 2007, p. 1086], which called for several reforms and innovations. UN-Habitat launched two new initiatives: the World Urban Campaign and the Cities and Climate Change Initiative. The initiatives, together with the World Urban Forum (2010) [YUN 2008, p. 1181], would spearhead global advocacy for more sustainable urbanization and provide a coordinated approach to policy dialogue and development. Member States were invited to establish national Habitat committees to play an active role in the World Urban Campaign.

In the light of the global financial crisis, UN-Habitat organized a special meeting on affordable housing and housing finance at the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (New York, 24–26 June) (see p. 947). Participants observed that the financial crisis had its origins in overextended housing finance systems, in particular “sub-prime mortgage instruments”. While the crisis had exposed pervasive weaknesses in national and global financial systems and regulatory frameworks, it also served as a reminder that housing was both a market product and a social good. In addressing the crisis, human settlements must be at the forefront of sustainable development policy. UN-Habitat’s work to improve access to sustainable financing for affordable housing and infrastructure involved promoting conducive policy frameworks, increasing financial institution activity in the sectors of affordable housing and infrastructure, creating local finance facilities for affordable housing, promoting community group access to finance and promoting local savings groups and savings instruments. In addition, the UN-Habitat experimental finance programme was modified to address the crisis and included: seeking out additional lending opportunities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East; increasing partnerships with finance institutions; and demonstrating the benefits of well-designed investments in affordable shelter. The importance of incorporating a gender perspective and a broad spectrum of insurance mechanisms and interest rates into affordable housing plans was also highlighted.

Relationships with the private sector saw a major shift in 2008 owing to the launch of the 2008–2013 medium-term strategic and institutional plan, moving beyond corporate social responsibility to include core business practices for sustainable urbanization. UN-Habitat enhanced its advocacy and knowledge management work and started new forms of partner-

Human settlements

Implementation of Habitat Agenda and strengthening of UN-Habitat

In August, the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 63/221 [YUN 2008, p. 1177], reported [A/64/260] on the implementation of

ship at the global and country levels with financial institutions, water utility companies and the real estate sector. The first objective of such partnerships was pre-investment packaging, whereby policy reform, capacity-building and technical assistance were designed to mobilize a mix of public expenditure and private investment in housing and urban development. The second objective was to show Governments and financial institutions that business models for pro-poor housing and urban development were viable and beneficial to overall economic development.

With the support of the African Development Bank, the UN-Habitat Water for African Cities Programme was operational in 18 cities in 15 countries. UN-Habitat facilitated cooperation between banks, local authorities and urban poor organizations to mobilize and package domestic capital, public investments and community savings for slum upgrading and affordable housing; those efforts included the UN-Habitat Slum Upgrading Facility pilot programme operations in Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania. Technical assistance and advisory services were provided to women's land access trusts in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Support was also provided for the formation of new land access trusts in Burundi, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda. The Cities and Climate Change Initiative was launched in 2009 to support government efforts to reduce the ecological footprint of cities while improving their safety and resilience to the effects of climate change. The *Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Planning Sustainable Cities* identified innovative urban planning approaches and practices that were more responsive to the challenges of sustainable urbanization.

The report concluded that, for practically all dimensions of human settlements development and management, the global economic and financial crisis had had negative ramifications, and that the impact was particularly serious on the poor and low-income groups, whose capacity to access decent housing, secure tenure and basic urban services was impaired. It identified several areas of follow-up action, including the need for Member States to assess the effectiveness of their policies regarding pro-poor housing and urban development, and the need to integrate affordable housing and housing finance as key means of attaining internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]. The key recommendation, however, centred on follow-up at the global level, as well as bridging the architecture and modalities of follow-up and sustainable development. That recommendation was based on the acknowledgement that sustainable development increasingly depended on sustainable urbanization. In practical terms, sustainable development would ultimately

depend on the quality of city management and planning and the effectiveness of adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change. The General Assembly was thus invited to consider convening, in 2016, a UN conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), the objective of which would be to review, formulate and adopt updated policies, strategies and approaches to address the evolving challenges of sustainable urbanization and urban development.

Coordinated implementation of Habitat Agenda

In response to a 2008 Economic and Social Council decision [YUN 2008, p. 1177], the Secretary-General submitted a May report [E/2009/80] on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda during 2008 and the first half of 2009. The report underlined the raising of international awareness of the issues and challenges associated with rapid urbanization, including their consequences for attaining the MDGs. That heightened awareness led to an increase in the scope and depth of responses to those issues at the global, regional and country levels. The implementation of the 2008–2013 medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the realization on the part of the international community of the need to focus on the consequences of rapid urbanization, which had led to collaborative arrangements and partnerships involving UN system entities as well as NGOs, had also contributed to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The report listed several initiatives. The UN-Habitat Youth Empowerment Programme in the Kibera slum and the Mavoko informal settlement in Nairobi provided on-the-job training for youth through the construction of their own youth training centre. The programme aimed to equip young people with managerial and organizational skills, certification and apprenticeship experience that would allow them to find jobs in the construction industry. UN-Habitat launched the Water Operators Partnership Programme, which provided municipal water operators in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean with a platform for exchanging strategies and applying best practices in the delivery of clean drinking water to informal settlements and slums. UN-Habitat developed its working relationships with financial institutions such as the Bank of America as part of its effort to mobilize capital for reimbursable seed-type initiatives in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In collaboration with UNEP and the Governments of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, a project on promoting energy efficiency in buildings in eastern Africa was being developed with Global Environment Facility funding.

The report concluded that the emerging yet robust response by Governments and partners to the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda was a strong indication of the increasing internalization of the urban agenda by the world community. It called for the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following recommendations: adopt and promote sustainable urbanization as a cross-cutting issue for more effective action within the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development; endorse the convening of a special General Assembly event devoted to the theme of affordable finance for housing and urban development; and recommend that the Assembly convene a third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016.

On 29 July, the Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2009/238**, took note of the report, decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its sixty-fourth (2009) session and requested the Secretary-General to report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda to the Council in 2010.

In response to the Council's decision, the Secretary-General, by an August note [A/64/317], transmitted the report to the Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/421], adopted **resolution 64/207** without vote [agenda item 54].

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327(XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 57/275 of 20 December 2002, 58/226 and 58/227 of 23 December 2003, 59/239 of 22 December 2004, 60/203 of 22 December 2005, 61/206 of 20 December 2006, 62/198 of 19 December 2007 and 63/221 of 19 December 2008,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003 and Council decisions 2004/300 of 23 July 2004, 2005/298 of 26 July 2005, 2006/247 of 27 July 2006, 2007/249 of 26 July 2007, 2008/239 of 23 July 2008 and 2009/238 of 29 July 2009,

Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility,

Recognizing the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements,

Recognizing also that the current financial crisis could negatively affect the ability of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to mobilize resources and promote the use of incentives and market measures as well as the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources for supporting private sector investment in affordable housing,

Welcoming with appreciation the important contribution of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to more cost-effective transitions between emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction, and also the decision to admit UN-Habitat to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

Recognizing the significance of the urban dimension of poverty eradication and the need to integrate water and sanitation and other issues within a comprehensive framework for sustainable development,

Recognizing also the importance of decentralization policies for achieving sustainable human settlements development in line with the Habitat Agenda and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 and its efforts, as a non-resident agency, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks,

Noting the request of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/5 of 3 April 2009 for a joint examination of the governance of UN-Habitat with a view to identifying and implementing ways to improve the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the existing governance structure and to identify options for any other potential relevant changes for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session and for the Executive Director to begin work on terms of reference for this exercise,

Noting also the efforts of UN-Habitat in strengthening its collaboration with international and regional development banks and domestic financial institutions to combine public and private capital with capacity-building and policy reform activities in order to improve access by the poor to water and sanitation and affordable housing finance in support of the attainment of the internationally agreed de-

velopment goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Brazil and the city of Rio de Janeiro to host the fifth session of the World Urban Forum from 22 to 26 March 2010,

Reaffirming the increased importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in helping developing countries to develop capacities in order to achieve their national goals, including those related to sustainable human settlements and urban development,

Recalling its invitation to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to keep developments in housing finance systems under review in view of the current global economic and financial crisis, and its decision to explore the possibility of convening a high-level event of the General Assembly on the subject, and acknowledging the efforts of the Governing Council at its twenty-second session in this regard,

Recognizing the continued need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

Recognizing also the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the development of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, established by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 21/10 of 20 April 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of UN-Habitat in the continued implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013, and encourages Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to contribute to UN-Habitat so as to further strengthen its efforts in institutional reform and the pursuit of management excellence, including results-based management;

3. *Stresses* the need for Member States, taking into consideration, inter alia, the current global crisis, to assess the adequacy of their respective housing and related infrastructure policies to meet the needs of their growing urban populations and, in particular, the needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups, and requests UN-Habitat to assist Governments upon request in this regard;

4. *Encourages* Governments to promote the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of their respective local authorities in applying those principles and practices, in order to, inter alia, ensure access to basic services for all and improve the living conditions of vulnerable urban populations, slum-dwellers and the urban poor, and, as a major contribution to mitigating the causes of climate change, adapting to the

effects of climate change and reducing risks and vulnerabilities in a rapidly urbanizing world, including human settlements in fragile ecosystems, and invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

5. *Stresses* the need for the international community to support South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, especially by mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable basis, providing technical assistance and encouraging city-to-city cooperation;

6. *Reiterates its call for* continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions, and invites Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the strategic and institutional objectives of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 and its Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization;

7. *Stresses* that the affordability of housing has become a major issue that needs to be addressed by mobilizing resources for the poor and other vulnerable groups;

8. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

9. *Acknowledges* the progress made in the implementation of the pilot programmes of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and in this regard invites the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute to the Trust Fund;

10. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue exploring the possibility of convening a high-level special event of the General Assembly on sustainable urbanization to promote understanding of the challenges of rapid urbanization, including climate change, housing finance systems, urban planning and sustainable land management;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans for attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

12. *Reiterates its encouragement* to the Economic and Social Council to include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

14. *Takes note* of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009 and, having considered the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

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

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

UN Human Settlements Programme

Governing Council

In 2009, the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) held its twenty-second session (Nairobi, 30 March–3 April) [A/64/8], which addressed the special theme "Promoting affordable housing finance systems in an urbanizing world in the face of the global financial crisis and climate change". The Council adopted 11 resolutions on various aspects of the work of UN-Habitat and one decision on future Council sessions. On 3 April, the Council adopted the report of its deliberations [HSP/GC/22/7].

The Council [res. 22/1] recommended that the General Assembly consider the question of convening in 2016 a third UN conference on housing and sustainable urban development, so as to review, update and adopt more relevant policy recommendations to address the issues of sustainable human settlements development in a rapidly urbanizing world.

Regarding affordable housing finance [res. 22/2], the Council invited member States to consider undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the state of adequate shelter, affordable housing and related infrastructure with a view to assessing the adequacy of their national housing finance systems and regulatory frameworks in meeting the basic needs of their respective populations, particularly the poor and disadvantaged segments of the population. It also encouraged member States to establish sound and conducive frameworks and mechanisms to enable extended public and private investment in slum upgrading and prevention, affordable housing and urban development. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat was requested to disseminate models and knowledge about the importance of community-based pre-investment activities; to undertake monitoring and capacity-building, particularly at the municipal level; and to work with international and regional financial institutions to

promote housing and infrastructure investments as a contributor to economic growth and as a means of reducing poverty. The Council supported exploring the possibility of convening a high-level General Assembly special event on the issue of housing finance systems in the face of the global financial crisis.

On cities and climate change [res. 22/3], the Council requested the Executive Director to continue to increase awareness of the role of cities in addressing climate change and encouraged the development in other regions of such activities as the "Climate-resilient cities in Africa" initiative. The Council invited Governments to include the issue of cities and climate change as an integral part of their national climate change strategies, including mitigation and adaptation.

To strengthen the development of urban young people [res. 22/4], the Council encouraged Governments to give priority and support to youth-led development initiatives and invited multilateral agencies, Governments, the private sector and civil society to listen to youth and develop policies on their development based on participatory processes. The Executive Director was requested to strengthen the institutional management and operations of the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development; to evaluate the Fund's operation and to report to the Council's twenty-third (2011) session; to increase support for youth and youth-led initiatives; and to strengthen work on the engagement of young people in human settlements development.

In the area of UN-Habitat governance [res. 22/5], the Council requested the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to undertake an examination of the governance of the Programme with a view to identifying and implementing ways to improve the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the governance structure and to identify options for any other relevant changes for consideration by the Council at its twenty-third (2011) session.

The Council approved [res. 22/7] the proposed 2010–2011 work programme and budget [HSP/GC/22/5]; approved the general-purpose budget of \$66,190,500; endorsed the 2010–2011 special-purpose budget of \$95,717,700; and approved an increase in the general-purpose statutory reserve from \$3,279,500 to \$6,619,500. It requested the Executive Director to report on the execution of the work programme against each of its expected accomplishments to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a half-yearly basis, and also to the Governing Council.

The Council approved [res. 22/8] the guidelines on access to basic services for all [HSP/GC.22/2/Add.6 & Corr.1/Rev.1] as a valuable instrument in attaining the MDGs and invited Governments to place the issue of

access to basic services for all at the centre of their national development policies, with a special emphasis on filling the gaps for the poor and marginalized groups, and to strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks for facilitating partnerships, in line with the guidelines.

The Council welcomed [res. 22/10] the invitation by the Government of Brazil to host the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 26 March 2010 and requested the Executive Director to carry out a lessons-learned review of all previous Forum sessions, to be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives prior to its September session, with a view to improving the planning, organization and effectiveness of future sessions.

The Council requested [res. 22/9] UN-Habitat to strengthen the integration of South-South cooperation in its activities and, to that end, to strengthen cooperation with UNDP and other organizations within and outside the UN system. It noted [res. 22/11] the progress made by UN-Habitat in implementing the special human settlements programme for the Palestinian people and called on member States and others to support the operation of that programme. It also took note [res. 22/6] of the enhancement of the Habitat Scroll of Honour awards by the establishment of complementary cash awards, including the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment, the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman al Khalifa UN-Habitat Award and the Rafik Hariri Memorial Award, as a means of recognizing, rewarding and promoting best practices in human settlements, community development and leadership.

Among other documents, the Council also considered the progress report on the implementation of the 2008–2013 medium-term strategic and institutional plan for UN-Habitat [HSP/GC/22/2/Add.2]; the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP [HSP/GC/22/2/Add.4]; and the gender equality action plan [HSP/GC/22/5/Add.2].

Committee of Permanent Representatives

The Committee of Permanent Representatives, the intersessional body of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, held four regular meetings in 2009 (5 March, 11 June, 24 September, 7 December) and one extraordinary meeting (24 March). It adopted its report on its work during the intersessional period [HSP/GC/22/3 & Add.1], reviewed the regular quarterly reports on the financial status of UN-Habitat, approved the terms of reference for a governance review of UN-Habitat and elected its Bureau for the 2010–2011 biennium. In December, the co-chair of the open-ended contact group for the governance review process provided an update on the progress of the review.

UN-Habitat activities

In 2009, UN-Habitat continued to implement its work programme in line with Governing Council resolutions and the goals of the UN system and the international community. Under the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, approved by the Council in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 1086], UN-Habitat focused on six key areas: advocacy, monitoring and partnerships; promotion of participatory planning, management and governance; promotion of pro-poor land and housing; environmentally sound basic infrastructure and services; strengthened human settlements finance systems; and excellence in management.

The agency's worldwide monitoring function was strengthened with the creation of an additional seven local units of its Global Urban Observatory, a network that collected and developed policy-oriented indicators in 133 cities around the world. To help policymakers respond to the challenge of urbanization with well-informed decisions, UN-Habitat organized capacity-building workshops on the use of census data to prepare city and slum indicators and the measurement of inequalities at the city level. UN-Habitat enhanced its role as a major source of urban data with the publication of the *Statistical Book on Human Settlements* and of *Slum levels and trends 1990–2010*, as well as a series of *Urban Inequities Surveys* and a revised edition of its *Urban Indicators Programme Training Manual*.

In March, UN-Habitat launched its Cities and Climate Change Initiative in Oslo, Norway, and deployed four pilot schemes involving the cities of Esmeraldas, Ecuador; Kampala, Uganda; Maputo, Mozambique; and Sorsogon, the Philippines. Subsequently, five other cities joined the initiative: Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso; Kigali, Rwanda; Mombasa, Kenya; Saint-Louis, Senegal; and Walvis Bay, Namibia. The initiative sought to enhance the preparedness and mitigation activities of cities in developing and least developed countries. Meanwhile, the links between the agency and the private sector took on a fresh dimension in July when the first UN-Habitat International Business Forum on Better Cities was held in India's capital, New Delhi. At the three-day Forum, private-sector leaders reviewed challenges, solutions, best practices and innovation for sustainable cities with representatives of central and local government and civil society.

The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund granted nearly \$1 million to more than 60 projects in 33 countries in its first year of operation. In seven sub-Saharan African countries, UN-Habitat developed and promoted Women Land Access Trusts, which gave women access to affordable housing finance, leading to more secure tenure. UN-Habitat promoted urban environmental governance and stra-

tegic planning in the Lake Victoria region of East Africa, seeking to reconcile urban expansion and a unique ecosystem. Lake Victoria City Development Strategies were at work in eight cities, which joined forces across borders to set up a common institutional framework and were engaged in dedicated capacity-building programmes.

In Ecuador, UN-Habitat helped to organize workshops on housing for indigenous people, attended by representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. UN-Habitat worked with Pakistan's Ministry of the Environment as well as with NGOs and UN agencies to deliver gender mainstreaming workshops on water, sanitation and hygiene programmes: participants were from federal, provincial and local governments, water and sanitation service providers, and community-based organizations. Similar training schemes took place in African cities. UN-Habitat also worked on regional training schemes in Accra, Ghana and Quito, Ecuador; the schemes enabled women to develop skills to engage with local leadership and authorities at the grassroots level, with a view to enhancing women's participation in local governance.

In the area of slum upgrading, UN-Habitat helped to establish Local Finance Facilities in Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania; those sustainable, financially viable non-bank financial institutions were well positioned to reach over 10,000 households by 2014. The facilities offered credit enhancement, most commonly in the form of guarantees, to support housing and infrastructure improvement for low-income end-users. The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme promoted participatory urban planning, management and governance in 30 countries. In Nairobi, 1,300 families were moved from shacks in a slum to modern apartments built through a partnership between the Kenyan Government and UN-Habitat. The scheme under the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme saw residents of Kibera slums move to new high-rise flats,

for which they would be charged about \$20 a month. During the year, UN-Habitat launched Phase II of the Participatory Slum Upgrading and Prevention Programme in 12 African countries. The new phase identified the steps needed for upgrading and the resources to be mobilized, and mapped out a slum-prevention policy in each country.

The Land Tool Network supported the development of innovative land tools to contribute to poverty alleviation through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure. The Network brought together international NGOs and financial institutions, research and training institutions, donors and professional bodies. It comprised 42 global partners and had 1,130 registered members from 132 countries. In Kenya, its efforts culminated in Parliament's adoption of improved land policies in December 2009.

In Madagascar, a land regularization programme was aimed at providing access to secure tenure for all. In Cape Verde, Mozambique and Rwanda, UN-Habitat helped to develop and apply enabling policies and improved regulatory frameworks. In Mozambique, it supported the massive process of land-use regularization launched in the capital, Maputo. In Colombia, the agency helped to prepare a binding policy guideline on slum upgrading that became the main reference for nine municipal integrated programmes. In Tanzania, UN-Habitat assisted authorities in Dar es Salaam in completing an upgrading plan for 50 per cent of all unplanned and un-serviced settlements in the city, and took the lead in mobilizing the necessary funding.

The three-year Settlement and Integration of Refugees Programme, which UN-Habitat completed in Serbia, provided 670 housing units, including 570 new ones, for 3,000 refugees and other vulnerable people. A new programme would bring the benefits of that experience to urban areas in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In July, UN-Habitat joined the Government of Iraq to launch a \$70 million urban governance, housing, infrastructure and basic services programme.

Population

In 2009, the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the landmark 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) took place against the backdrop of financial turmoil and economic downturn. The global financial and economic crisis threatened to reverse progress achieved in eliminating poverty and derail the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Estimates suggested that the crisis had left an additional 50 million people in extreme poverty. Social and economic distress further complicated redressing gender inequality and improving reproductive health and rights, which were at the centre of the ICPD agenda.

UN population activities continued to be guided by the Programme of Action adopted at the ICPD and the key actions for its implementation adopted at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly in 1999. The Commission on Population and Development—the body responsible for monitoring, reviewing and assessing implementation of the Programme of Action—considered as its special theme “The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”. The Population Division continued to analyse and report on world demographic trends and policies and to make its findings available in publications and on the Internet. World population reached 6.8 billion in 2009, according to the Division.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) assisted countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and the MDGs through their use of population data to formulate sound policies and programmes. In 2009, UNFPA provided assistance to 155 countries, areas and territories, with emphasis on increasing the availability and quality of reproductive health services, fighting gender discrimination and gender-based violence, formulating effective population policies and intensifying HIV prevention.

Follow-up to 1994 Conference on Population and Development

Implementation of Programme of Action Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development, at its forty-second session (New York, 11 April 2008

and 30 March–3 April 2009) [E/2009/25] considered as its special theme “The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”. It discussed follow-up actions to the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) [YUN 1994, p. 955] and adopted a resolution [E/2009/25 (res. 2009/1)] on national, regional and international action relating to its special theme.

Documents before the Commission included the report of its Bureau on its intersessional meetings (New York, 21 October and 15 December 2008) [E/CN.9/2009/2] and the Secretary-General’s reports on: world population monitoring [E/CN.9/2009/3] (see below); monitoring of population programmes [E/CN.9/2009/4] (see p. 1049); flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action [E/CN.9/2009/5] (see p. 1046); and world demographic trends [E/CN.9/2009/6] [ibid.]. It also had before it 11 statements by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council [E/CN.9/2009/NGO/1–11].

Reports of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General’s report on world population monitoring, focusing on the contribution of the ICPD Programme of Action to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [E/CN.9/2009/3], covered how the implementation of the core guidelines of the Programme of Action contributed to the achievement of international development goals. It found that the global population growth rate was estimated at 1.17 per cent annually and a population explosion had been averted globally due to declined fertility rates in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. That population explosion was still playing out in Africa and most of the least developed countries. Government policy and international commitment had made a difference in shaping population dynamics, and accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action would contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals.

High fertility was associated with the persistence of poverty because low-income groups generally had much higher fertility than high-income groups. Surveys in 56 developing countries showed that women in the lowest wealth quintile had, on average, two

more children than women in the upper quintile. Analyses of the impact of declining fertility on poverty reduction showed that demographic change alone accounted for a 14 per cent drop in poverty levels in the developing world during 1960–2000, and could produce an additional 14 per cent reduction during 2000–2015 if fertility decline accelerated in high-fertility countries. At the country level, higher fertility among the poor could contribute to increasing the levels of hunger and undernutrition as well as poverty. Rising food prices had increased poverty levels by about 4.5 percentage points in low-income countries between 2005 and 2007, implying that an additional 105 million people had fallen into poverty. Policies to address the effects of food price shocks needed to give priority to the immediate protection of the most vulnerable, including women and children. Longer-term policy responses needed to incorporate population policy as part of a coordinated response to promote sustainable livelihoods for all.

Much progress had been made towards achieving universal primary education, a goal established by the Programme of Action and echoed by the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]. Nevertheless, at both the household and country levels, investment in the education of children was less likely to be sufficient when the number of children per family was large. Sustained high fertility resulted in rapidly increasing numbers of school-age children, translating into increased demands on education systems and families. Countries with worse education indicators tended to have higher proportions of children and high population growth rates. The level of education of women was a key determinant of fertility behaviour, as women with higher education were more likely to use contraception and have fewer children than women with fewer years of schooling.

Despite progress made in providing access to modern contraceptive methods to those who needed them, an estimated 106 million married women in developing countries had an unmet need for family planning. Satisfying that need could contribute to reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and reducing poverty. Closely spaced births and pregnancies in adolescent and older women put children at increased risk of death. Substantial increases in domestic and external funding for family planning were necessary if reproductive health and child health were to be assured by 2015.

The relationship between population growth and increasing greenhouse gas emissions was not straightforward, and it was not possible to assess the effects of population dynamics net of other economic and technological changes, but reducing population growth could allow more time for the global population

to adapt to those changes. Moderating population growth would also make it easier to conserve water, make water accessible to more people, and expand the coverage of sanitation to meet the targets set by the MDGs.

The Secretary-General's report [E/CN.9/2009/5] on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/128 [YUN 1994, p. 963] and 50/124 [YUN 1995, p. 1094], said that donor assistance for population activities had been increasing steadily: it had reached \$7.4 billion in 2006, was expected to surpass \$8 billion in 2007 and might increase to \$11 billion over 2009 and 2010 if donors continued to increase funding levels. Resources for population activities mobilized by developing countries, as a group, were estimated at \$18.5 billion for 2007 and were expected to increase to \$19.6 billion in 2008 and \$20.5 billion in 2009. Those figures presupposed that developing countries would continue to increase such resources; however, given the global financial crisis, it was not certain whether countries would continue to increase funding levels for population activities.

The report presented revised cost estimates for the four components of the ICPD population package—family planning; reproductive health; sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; and basic research, data and population and development analysis—and pointed out that without political will, renewed commitment and adequate resources, it would not be possible to achieve the goals of the Conference or the Millennium Summit.

The Secretary-General's biennial report [E/CN.9/2009/6] on world demographic trends and prospects, submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 [YUN 1996, p. 976], said that world population was 6.8 billion and was projected to stand at 9 billion in 2045 if fertility continued to decline in developing countries. Due to varying fertility levels, high population growth was expected in several developing countries, while the population of developed countries would grow little, if at all. Eighty-six countries, including 53 developed countries, had below-replacement fertility, while 42 developing countries, many of which were least developed, had total fertility above 4.0 children per woman. In most of the world, longevity continued to increase. Life expectancy was estimated at 67.2 years globally, averaging 76.5 years in developed countries and 65.4 years in developing countries. In the least developed countries, two thirds of which were severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, life expectancy averaged 54.6 years. In the future, the population would be older and more urban. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over would almost triple, reaching

2 billion in 2050. In 2008, for the first time in history, the global number of urban dwellers had surpassed the number of rural inhabitants. Future population growth would be concentrated mainly in the urban areas of the developing world. By 2050, 70 per cent of the world population would likely be urban.

Commission action. The Commission brought its resolution on the contribution of the ICPD Programme of Action to the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs [E/2009/25 (res. 2009/1)], to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The resolution recognized that population dynamics, development, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights, empowerment of young people and women and gender equality were important for achieving the goals. It also recognized that there was a dire need to increase financial resources for implementing the Programme of Action, particularly for family planning.

The Commission called on Governments, in formulating and implementing national development plans, budgets and poverty eradication strategies, to address challenges relating to the impact of population dynamics on poverty and sustainable development. It requested that the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies continue to support countries in implementing the Programme of Action and thus contribute to eradicating poverty, promoting gender equality, improving adolescent, maternal and neonatal health, preventing HIV/AIDS and ensuring environmental sustainability. The Commission called upon the international community to assist Governments and to increase funding for family planning, and encouraged Member States to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the negative impact of the economic crisis on migrants and the migration process.

The Commission decided that the special theme for its forty-fourth (2011) session would be “Fertility, reproductive health and development” [dec. 2009/101]. It also adopted the provisional agenda for its forty-third (2010) session.

By **decision 2009/239** of 29 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its forty-second (2009) session and approved the provisional agenda for its forty-third (2010) session.

In preparation for its forty-third session, the Commission's Bureau held two meetings in 2009 (New York, 28 October and 9 December) [E/CN.9/2010/2].

Communications. On 2 April [E/CN.9/2009/8], Jordan, as Chairman of the Group of Arab States at the United Nations for the month of April, raised the issue of the nomination of Israel as Chair of the Commission's forty-third session. Israel replied on 7 April [E/CN.9/2009/9].

International migration and development

Global Forum Meeting. The third Global Forum on Migration and Development (Athens, Greece, 2–5 November) addressed the theme “Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All”. It included a meeting of civil society (2–3 November), followed by an intergovernmental meeting (4–5 November). At the former, more than 300 participants from 100 countries gathered to discuss key outcomes and recommendations, which were then reported at the Government meeting. Recommendations included more flexible stay/work permits that would allow migrants to change employer and employment sector and accumulate benefits on short-term permits; more transparency in visa regimes; lower up-front costs of migration; flexible demand-driven permits; and low-cost loans to migrants and their families to start their journeys. It was suggested that Governments monitor recruiter and migration agency practices more closely and enforce laws against exploitation, discrimination and xenophobic and racist practices.

Over 530 delegates representing 142 Member States and observers and 30 international organizations gathered at the intergovernmental meeting to attend two plenary sessions and round table discussions on migration and the MDGs; migrant integration, reintegration and circulation for development; and policy and institutional coherence and partnerships. Governments agreed to pursue policy and institutional coherence on migration and development, as well as research to underpin such coherence.

On 1 October, the Philippines transmitted to the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee the report [A/C.2/64/2] of the second meeting of the Global Forum, held in Manila in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 1185].

Eighth Meeting on International Migration and Development. In response to General Assembly resolution 58/208 [YUN 2003, p. 1087], the UN Population Division organized the Eighth Coordination Meeting on International Migration (New York, 16–17 November), which brought together some 70 representatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society organizations and research institutes. The meeting included presentations on the global and regional impact of the economic and financial crisis on international migration, and on developments in improving the evidence base on international migration and development. Other conferences, meetings and forums on the subject included a regional workshop on international migration statistics (Cairo, Egypt, 30 June–3 July).

International Organization for Migration. In a letter dated 5 November [A/64/233], representatives from 12 Member States requested the inclusion of an additional item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration” in the agenda of the resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session of the General Assembly. Annexed to the letter were an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution. The General Committee on 24 November [A/BUR/64/SR.2] decided to defer discussion of the item to a later date.

Human Development Report. The subject of the *Human Development Report 2009*, issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was “Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development”. The starting point of the report was that the global distribution of capabilities was extraordinarily unequal, and that was a major driver for movement of people. Migration could expand individual choices—for instance in terms of incomes, access to services and participation—but the opportunities open to people varied from those who were highly skilled to those with limited capacities and assets. Those underlying inequalities could be compounded by policy distortions.

The report investigated migration in the context of demographic changes and trends in both growth and inequality. It presented individual, family and village experiences, and explored less visible movements, such as short-term and seasonal migration. Migration had a positive impact on human development through increased household incomes and improved access to education and health services. It could empower disadvantaged groups, in particular women. At the same time, risks to human development were present where migration was a reaction to threats and denial of choice, and where regular opportunities for movement were constrained.

National and local policies played a critical role in enabling better outcomes for both those who chose to move in order to improve their circumstances and those forced to leave due to conflict or environmental degradation. Host country restrictions could raise both the costs and the risks of migration. Negative outcomes could arise where basic civic rights—like voting, schooling and health care—were denied to migrants. A human development approach could redress some of the underlying issues that eroded the potential benefits of mobility or forced migration.

United Nations Population Fund

2009 activities

Reports of Executive Director. In a report [DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part I)] to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive

Board, the UNFPA Executive Director reviewed major initiatives undertaken by UNFPA in 2009 in implementing its strategic plan for 2008–2013. The report focused on outcomes in population and development, reproductive health and rights, and gender equality.

In 2009, the global financial and economic crisis threatened to reverse progress achieved in eliminating poverty and derail the achievement of the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]. An estimated 50 million additional people were living in extreme poverty, and social and economic distress further complicated redressing gender inequality and improving reproductive health and rights. The crisis had exacerbated other long-term problems, including food and energy insecurity and climate change. UNFPA consistently advocated for sustained and increased investments in health and for using technology and data to reach the poor and monitor impact. The Fund coordinated with other UN agencies to design a global vulnerability alert system. It also promoted human-centred approaches for adaptation to climate change, building on community resilience and women’s empowerment.

Regarding management, 91 per cent of UNFPA country offices achieved over 75 per cent of annual output targets, and 75 per cent reported that staff participated in training on results-based management. Country offices implemented 409 South-South initiatives, providing knowledge, learning and training for building national capacity. The Fund participated in 221 joint programmes with UN agencies covering reproductive health, population and development, and gender equality.

UNFPA improved stewardship of resources, particularly in the context of national execution and audit recommendations. Oversight of cash transfers to implementing partners, prudent use of biennial support budget (BSB) resources, strengthened procurement procedures, and better system controls over BSB expenditures were notable improvements. The Fund surpassed its funding targets for core and non-core resources, securing over \$1 million each from 19 donors.

An addendum [DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part I, Add.1)] provided a statistical and financial review for the year. It stated that from 2008 to 2009, total UNFPA income decreased by \$62.2 million, or 7.4 per cent, to \$783 million due to a decline in co-financing contributions. UNFPA resources surpassed the \$500 million level for the sixth sequential year, including \$486.4 million in regular resource income, the highest total in the history of UNFPA. Regular resource contribution income increased by \$40.6 million, or 9.5 per cent, and total expenditures increased by \$98.3 million, or 14 per cent, to \$800.1 million. Of that increase, \$96.8 million (98.5 per cent) was attributed to increased programme activities. UNFPA closed the year in robust financial health.

The Executive Director reported on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) [DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part II)], providing a synopsis of UNFPA management responses to key recommendations of JIU. Of the eight reports issued by JIU in 2009, three were relevant to UNFPA. Those reports concerned: a more coherent UN support system to Africa [JIU/REP/2009/5]; offshoring in UN system organizations [JIU/REP/2009/6]; and the selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the UN system organizations [JIU/REP/2009/8]. The Executive Director provided information on related UNFPA policies, adding that of the 62 recommendations issued by JIU between 2006 and 2008 that were relevant to UNFPA, all had been implemented or were being pursued.

UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. The UNFPA Executive Director reported, jointly with the Administrator of UNDP, to the Economic and Social Council on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system [E/2010/5].

On 3 June [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/16)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board took note of the UNFPA Executive Director's report for 2008: [DP/FPA/2009/2 (Part I & Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1, Part II)]. The Board took note of progress made in aligning UNFPA programming with the UNFPA strategic plan for 2008–2011 and requested that the Executive Director submit to the Board a midterm review of the strategic plan in 2011 and a cumulative review in 2013.

By **decision 2009/215** of 22 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the annual report of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board [E/2008/35] and of the joint report of the UNDP Administrator and the UNFPA Executive Director to the Council [YUN 2008, p. 1188].

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General in January submitted to the Commission on Population and Development a report on monitoring population programmes, focusing on the contribution of the ICPD Programme of Action to the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs [E/CN.9/2009/4]. The report, prepared by UNFPA, set out the strategic orientation of the Fund and provided examples of its global, regional and country activities aimed at achieving the MDGs.

UNFPA was engaged in policy dialogue aimed at influencing the formulation of pro-poor policies in several countries. It sought to raise awareness of the links between population dynamics and poverty, emphasizing the situation of women and young people and the positive effects that reproductive health care and family planning could have on economic and social development and poverty reduction.

UNFPA contributed to the achievement of the MDG on promoting gender equality and empowering women by addressing critical issues, including women's right to health and the right to live free from violence. The Fund was working at the global level, in collaboration with other UN agencies and in partnership with Governments and civil society organizations, to promote women's leadership and implement the Beijing Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170] and the ICPD Programme of Action.

UNFPA supported the development and implementation of national strategies and programmes aimed at promoting reproductive health in countries around the world. The Fund emphasized integrating a package of sexual and reproductive health services into the basic health services delivered at the district and local levels. UNFPA assisted countries in increasing access to maternal health services, especially skilled delivery care and emergency obstetric care. The Fund also worked with Governments through programmes in 140 countries to ensure that family planning was an integral part of national health plans and budgets, and that information and a range of family planning methods were offered in all health facilities and reached all communities.

UNFPA worked with Governments to strengthen and integrate reproductive health and HIV services. As co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA provided support to 40 countries in developing road maps within the new Africa maternal and newborn programme, contributing to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The Fund also procured male condoms in 120 countries and female condoms in 50 countries and provided financial and technical support to countries enrolled in the Global Condom Initiative, including 22 in Africa, 23 in the Caribbean and 6 in Asia.

UNFPA supported research to generate and disseminate a better understanding and awareness of the different ways in which population dynamics affected environmental change. The UNFPA agenda on climate change included supporting research and advocacy for mitigating climate change; promoting sustainable cities and reducing urban vulnerability; identifying the impact of climate change on migration; and improving responses to emergency situations. The Fund devoted the *State of World Population 2009* report [Sales No. E.09.III.H.1] to the issue of environment and women to highlight the linkages between climate change and population factors.

Population, development and poverty reduction

In 2009, UNFPA programme assistance in population and development totalled \$76.9 million from core resources and \$38.4 million from other resources. Country offices supported policy and strat-

egy development, data, the 2010 round of censuses, and emerging population and development issues. Population dynamics and its interlinkages with poverty were incorporated in 79 per cent of national development plans.

Among its activities, in Turkey, UNFPA supported a demographic study in collaboration with the Turkish Business Association, exploring linkages between population dynamics and social sectors. The UNFPA country office in Malawi provided technical and financial support to the youth sector, and advocacy led by young people resulted in halting a law allowing marriage at the age of 16. In the Dominican Republic, UNFPA mapped youth organizations in 14 municipalities and trained youth on policy dialogue, programme management and advocacy. UNFPA also worked with the World Bank to finalize an inter-agency resource toolkit on the inclusion of young people and their issues into poverty reduction strategies and national development plans.

Support to 2010 census operations continued to be a priority. In Africa, UNFPA made censuses one of its strategic priorities, and a needs assessment conference on census analysis was organized jointly with the United Nations Statistical Division in Senegal. In Lebanon, UNFPA organized training in methods of census analysis in collaboration with the UN Population Division, and in Peru, it supported design and implementation of new analyses of the results of the 2007 census in coordination with the National Institute of Statistics. UNFPA developed technical orientation guides and manuals on the use of census data to estimate maternal mortality and analyse gender and environment issues. UNFPA also supported national household/thematic surveys that included ICPD-related issues in Albania, Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Panama, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela. The Fund provided technical support for the development and establishment of integrated national databases.

UNFPA collaborated with and supported the International Institute for Environment and Development to conduct case studies on urban density and sustainable development, and the Fund's flagship publication, *State of World Population 2009, Facing a changing world: women, population and climate* [Sales No. E.09.III.H.1] was dedicated to the issue of climate change and gender. UNFPA also organized an expert group meeting on population dynamics and climate change (London, 24–25 June). The Fund collaborated with the Global Migration Group in preparing fact sheets on the impact of the global financial crisis on international migration for the third Global Forum on Migration and Development, and country

offices worked on advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-building and research to maximize the benefits and mitigate the negative impacts of international migration. UNFPA collaborated with the United Nations Programme on Ageing and the International Institute on Ageing in Malta to train policymakers on addressing challenges posed by rapid population ageing.

Reproductive health and rights

In 2009, UNFPA programme assistance in the area of reproductive health totalled \$170 million from core resources and \$227 million from other resources, making up 67 per cent of its development assistance. Country offices supported all five strategic plan outcomes ranging from maternal health, family planning and reproductive health commodity security to HIV/AIDS prevention and young people.

UNFPA was involved in health sector-wide approaches in 30 countries and was contributing to joint pooled funding in that area in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Fund participated in the "Health 4" initiative in 25 priority countries to coordinate efforts to accelerate progress in reproductive health and maternal and newborn survival. The UNFPA flagship Global Programme to enhance reproductive health commodity security supported 73 countries in developing sustainable approaches, up from 54 in 2008. As part of its humanitarian response, the Fund supported specialized training on reproductive health kits and the minimum initial regional and national service package.

The UNFPA maternal health thematic fund was active in 15 countries, including five of the six countries with the highest maternal mortality that accounted for nearly half of all maternal deaths worldwide—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Nigeria. In partnership with the International Confederation of Midwives, the midwifery programme worked in various regions, resulting in a 2 per cent increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate in Madagascar, the creation of a training coordination mechanism in Guyana, and the strengthening of clinical training of about 300 midwives in Côte d'Ivoire. The Campaign to End Fistula grew to cover 36 countries. Because of the Campaign, 4,100 women had received fistula treatment and care; the capacity of 100 health facilities in 23 countries was strengthened to manage and treat fistula; and training was conducted for more than 1,000 health care personnel in fistula prevention and management, including more than 160 doctors, 245 nurses and midwives, more than 30 social workers and paramedical staff, and more than 600 community health workers.

UNFPA initiatives in response to HIV/AIDS focused on comprehensive condom programming, women and girls, young people, HIV and sex work, and sexual and reproductive health and HIV linkages. As part of the UNFPA Global Condom Initiative, 21 countries drafted national condom strategies and worked toward developing five-year operational plans. Many countries utilized non-traditional condom distribution outlets to widen access to male and female condoms. The Fund worked with UNAIDS partners and the Australian Institute of International Health to develop a training package for UN staff on building their capacity to address HIV and sex work, injecting drug use and men having sex with men. It supported the Harvard University School of Public Health to produce a gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV study. It worked with other international and national organizations to roll out the rapid assessment tool for sexual and reproductive health and HIV linkages in five regions and 17 countries.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Thirteen per cent of UNFPA development assistance in 2009 was in the area of gender equality, totalling \$40.3 million from core resources and \$39 million from other resources. UNFPA country offices supported all four strategic plan outcomes in gender equality.

UNFPA provided support to Governments for capacity building and implementation of legislative and policy reform; advocacy to incorporate gender and reproductive rights in reporting to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and tracking progress on achievements in gender equality in relation to international conventions and platforms. In line with the Secretary-General's call to assist countries to monitor and evaluate efforts under Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113], UNFPA initiated efforts, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, to develop and refine indicators on national action plans on Council resolutions 1325(2000) and 1820(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 1265] in several pilot countries, such as Sierra Leone and Uganda.

The UNFPA-United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting supported the implementation of a common approach for the collective abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting in 12 countries. As a result, communities in Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea and Senegal abandoned the practice. To increase male involvement in support of sexual and reproductive health issues, UNFPA brought together

country offices from around the globe to discuss ongoing initiatives and ways to strengthen such involvement.

A global achievement on capacity-building was the finalization of the training package and rollout of the human rights-based approach to programming within UNFPA. At the country level, UNFPA, along with other partners, supported Governments in elaborating national reports to CEDAW in the Central African Republic, China, the Dominican Republic, Jordan and Oman. Human rights intercultural approaches sought to reinforce leadership of indigenous women and preserve traditional knowledge and practices in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

UNFPA was co-chair of the joint programme on violence against women initiative undertaken by the Inter-agency Task Force on Violence Against Women, which had been institutionalized in nine pilot countries through the development of national joint programming action plans. The Fund was also a lead member of the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign and supported activities at all levels. UNFPA humanitarian assistance sought to strengthen coordination mechanisms for improved prevention and response to violence against women in several countries, and GBV information management systems were introduced to monitor GBV incidents in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal and Uganda.

Country and intercountry programmes

UNFPA project expenditures for country, global and regional activities in 2009 totalled \$347.9 million, compared with \$337.2 million in 2008, according to the Executive Director's statistical and financial review [DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part I, Add.1)]. The 2009 figure included \$269.3 million for country programmes (compared with \$272.4 million in 2008) and \$78.6 million for global and regional programmes (compared with \$64.8 million in 2008). In accordance with the Executive Board's procedure for allocating resources [YUN 1996, p. 989], total expenditures in 2009 for countries most in need of assistance to realize ICPD goals amounted to \$196.6 million, compared with \$197.2 million in 2008.

Africa. Provisional data for UNFPA expenditures for programmes in sub-Saharan Africa gave a total of \$136.2 million in 2009, compared with \$141.3 million in 2008. Most of that amount went to reproductive health (46.2 per cent), followed by population and development (23.7 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (18.0 per cent) and gender equality and women's empowerment (12.1 per cent).

On 22 January [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/8)], the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, at its first regular session

of 2009 (New York, 19–22 January), approved country programmes for Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Mauritania. On 3 June [dec. 2009/19], at its annual session (New York, 26 May–3 June), the Board took note of the draft country programme documents for Botswana and Burundi and approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Mozambique. On 11 September [dec. 2009/28], the Executive Board, at its second regular session of 2009 (New York, 8–11 September), approved the country programmes for Botswana and Burundi on a no-objection basis and took note of the draft country programme document for Uganda.

Arab States. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in the Arab States totalled \$31 million in 2009, compared with \$26.2 million in 2008. Most of that amount was spent on reproductive health (55.5 per cent), followed by population and development (17.7 per cent), gender equality and women's empowerment (14.8 per cent) and programme coordination and assistance (11.9 per cent).

On 3 June [dec. 2009/19], the Executive Board took note of the draft country programme document for Lebanon and of the one-year extension of the country programme for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On 11 September [dec. 2009/28], it approved the country programme for Lebanon on a no-objection basis.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia totalled \$14.9 million in 2009, compared with \$15.1 million in 2008. Most of that amount was spent on reproductive health (44.3 per cent), followed by population and development (25.5 per cent), programme coordination and assistance (20.1 per cent) and gender equality and women's empowerment (10.1 per cent).

On 3 June [dec. 2009/19], the Executive Board took note of the draft country programme documents for Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, took note of the one-year extension of the country programme for Azerbaijan, and approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Kyrgyzstan. On 11 September [dec. 2009/28], the Board approved the country programmes for Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on a no-objection basis.

Asia and the Pacific. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Asia and the Pacific amounted to \$87.8 million, compared with \$85 million in 2008. Most of the total went to reproductive health (66.2 per cent), followed by population and development (16.5 per cent), gender equality and women's empowerment (9.0 per cent) and programme coordination and assistance (8.3 per cent).

On 22 January [dec. 2009/8], the Executive Board approved the country programme document for Timor-Leste. On 3 June [dec. 2009/19], the Board took note of the draft country programme document for Afghanistan, approved the two-year extension of the country programme for the Philippines, and took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran. On 11 September, [dec. 2009/28], the Board approved the country programme for Afghanistan on a no-objection basis.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean totalled \$34.1 million in 2009, compared with \$34.3 million in 2008. Most of the total went to reproductive health (40.5 per cent), followed by population and development (27.5 per cent), gender equality and women's empowerment (17.3 per cent) and programme coordination and assistance (14.7 per cent).

On 22 January [dec. 2009/8], the Executive Board approved the country programme documents for Haiti and Venezuela. On 3 June [dec. 2009/19], the Board took note of the draft country programme document for Ecuador. On 11 September [dec. 2009/28], the Board approved the country programme for Ecuador on a no-objection basis and took note of the draft country programme document for Guatemala.

Global programme. Provisional expenditures for the UNFPA global programme totalled \$43.9 million in 2009, compared with \$35.3 million in 2008. Most of the total went to programme coordination and assistance (39.2 per cent), followed by reproductive health (26.2 per cent), population and development (26.0 per cent) and gender equality and women's empowerment (8.6 per cent).

Financial and management questions

Financing

UNFPA income from all sources totalled \$783 million in 2009, compared with \$845.2 million in 2008 [DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part I, Add.1)], comprising \$469.4 million from regular resources, \$288.8 million from other resources, interest income of \$16.5 million and other income of \$8.3 million. Expenditures totalled \$800.1 million, up from \$701.8 million in 2008, comprising \$467.3 million related to regular resources and \$332.8 million related to other resources, resulting in a net deficit of \$21 million after adjustments were made for prior periods.

On 11 September [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/26)], the Executive Board approved gross resources of \$274.5 million for the 2010–2011 biennial support budget [DP/FPA/2009/10 & Corr.1]. It also noted that the estimated net resources totalled \$236.3 million. The Advisory

Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) made comments on the budget [DP/FPA/2009/11].

Other financial issues

In a report on funding commitments to UNFPA [DP/FPA/2009/3], the Executive Director analysed contributions by States and others for 2009 and future years. UNFPA considered a stable base of regular resources as critical to enable it to support countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and achieving the MDGs. In line with Assembly resolution 62/208 [YUN 2007, p. 877], UNFPA recognized that non-core (co-financing) resources represented an important supplement to the Fund's regular resource base.

In 2008, UNFPA income was \$800.7 million—\$469.5 million in regular resources and \$331.2 million in co-financing resources. UNFPA achieved a donor base of 176 donor Governments compared with 182 in 2007. The total number of multi-year pledges was 63. The Fund received donations from 13 countries belonging to the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and all countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The top five donor countries were the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom.

As of 1 April 2009, the projected regular contribution from donor Governments for 2009 was estimated at \$451.1 million, an increase of \$22.3 million (5.2 per cent) over 2008. Ninety-seven official pledges for 2009 had been received, 42 of which were multi-year pledges.

The Executive Board took note of the report on 2 June [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/17)] and encouraged countries to make contributions early in the year and to make multi-year pledges.

In response to Executive Board decision 2007/10 [YUN 2007, p. 1100], the Executive Director in July reported [DP/FPA/2009/12] on the revision of UNFPA financial regulations and rules. The report informed the Board of progress made in UNFPA's adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). UNFPA was adopting IPSAS in a phased approach and expected to be fully compliant by 2012. To allow the Fund to begin adopting IPSAS in 2010, revisions to the UNFPA Financial Regulations and Rules were necessary. In addition to the IPSAS-related changes, UNFPA proposed new regulations to achieve greater harmonization with other UN funds and programmes pertaining to sector budget support and pooled funds, retention of interest and investment revenue, and funding of financial authorizations for regular resources and trust funds. ACABQ in September [DP/FPA/2009/13] provided its comments and recommendations.

The Executive Board took note of the report on 11 September [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/27)] and approved the revisions.

Audit reports

The Executive Director submitted to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board a report [DP/FPA/2009/1] on UNFPA follow-up to recommendations by the United Nations Board of Auditors for the 2006–2007 biennium [A/63/5/Add.7]. UNFPA reported that it had implemented 34 of the 58 accepted recommendations of the Board. The Fund was on track to implement the remaining 24 recommendations by their target completion dates. The Executive Board took note of the report on 22 January [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/2)].

The Executive Director reported on the internal audit and oversight activities carried out by UNFPA in 2008 [DP/FPA/2009/5]. That included 15 audits—four in Africa, four in Latin America and the Caribbean, one in the Arab States, one in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, two in Asia and the Pacific and three at headquarters.

The Executive Board took note of the report on 3 June [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/15)]. The Board urged the Executive Director to strengthen risk-based audit planning; adopt an internal control framework in line with internationally recognized best practices; implement enterprise risk management; fill vacant posts in the Division for Oversight Services to ensure appropriate audit coverage; and ensure that the level of resources made available to the Division was within the range recommended by JIU.

Evaluation

In response to Executive Board decision 2008/12 [YUN 2008, p. 1193], the Executive Director in March reported on the UNFPA evaluation policy [DP/FPA/2009/4]. The policy provided an overarching framework of the principles, roles and responsibilities for evaluation in UNFPA. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 62/208 [YUN 2007, p. 877], the policy focused on strengthening national evaluation capacity by using participatory and inclusive approaches and by supporting country-led evaluations. UNFPA sought to harmonize and align the policy with the evaluation efforts of UN partners through the use of common approaches and joint evaluations.

The Executive Board approved the UNFPA evaluation policy on 3 June [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/18)]. It requested that the Executive Director submit a biennial evaluation plan in 2010 and a review of the evaluation policy in 2012.

Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

A September report [DP/2009/39-DP/FPA/2009/14] presented jointly by UNFPA and UNDP focused on implementation of decisions and plans for follow-up from the recent UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings. The report focused on issues addressed during those meetings that were of particular relevance to UNFPA and UNDP, including the 2010–2011 UNAIDS unified budget and workplan; intensifying action on gender equality and AIDS; participation in One UN pilots; and HIV, forced displacement and migrant populations.

Within the framework of the 2010–2011 UNAIDS unified budget and workplan, UNFPA would focus on advancing an integrated approach to the delivery of sexual and reproductive health and HIV policies, programmes and services. UNFPA, along with UNDP, had sought to increase attention to gender equality in HIV programmes, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNFEM and the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. UNFPA support contributed to an increased demand for, access to and utilization of quality prevention services for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, especially for women, young people and other vulnerable groups. In Brazil, UNFPA, along with other UN agencies and partners, supported the Government in developing, launching and implementing the Integrated Plan to Confront the Feminization of the HIV Epidemic.

UNFPA and UNDP were committed to promoting “Delivering as one” [YUN 2006, p. 1584] and participated in joint UN teams on AIDS at the country level. The Fund had expanded HIV-focused staffing at the country level to strengthen participation in joint teams. UNFPA and UNDP also contributed to UNAIDS efforts to strengthen HIV programmes for people on the move, including migrants and populations of humanitarian concern. The Fund collaborated with the UNAIDS secretariat and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to address the spread of HIV among uniformed personnel.

The Executive Board took note of the report on 11 September [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/28)].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 July [meeting 32], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2009/2** without vote [agenda item 3 (b)]. The draft [E/2009/L.19] was submitted by New Zealand and Norway.

Appointment of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 64/219, below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/425], adopted **resolution 64/219** without vote [agenda item 58].

Appointment of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2211(XXI) of 17 December 1966, in response to which a trust fund, subsequently renamed the United Nations Population Fund, was established in 1967 by the Secretary-General,

Recalling also its resolution 3019(XXVII) of 18 December 1972, in which it placed the United Nations Population Fund under its authority as a subsidiary organ, in accordance with Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, taking into account the separate identity of the Fund,

1. *Notes* that, since the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme ceased to perform the administrative role with respect to the United Nations Population Fund, no formal procedure has been established for the appointment of the Executive Director of the Fund;

2. *Decides* that the secretariat of the United Nations Population Fund shall continue to be headed by an Executive Director at the Under-Secretary-General level;

3. *Also decides* that the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, for a term of four years.

UN Population Award

The 2009 United Nations Population Award was presented to Dr. Mahmoud Fahmy Fathalla (Egypt) in the individual category and to Movimiento Comunal Nicaragüense of Nicaragua in the institutional category.

The Award was established by General Assembly resolution 36/201 [YUN 1981, p. 792], to be presented annually to individuals and institutions for outstanding contributions to increasing awareness of population problems and to their solutions. In July, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report of the UNFPA Executive Director on the Population Award [A/64/207].

Other population activities

UN Population Division

In a report on programme implementation and work progress of the UN Population Division in 2009 [E/CN.9/2010/6], the Secretary-General described the Division's activities dealing with the analysis of fertil-

ity, mortality and international migration; the preparation of world population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of the interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also highlighted the Division's substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results.

The Division held an expert group meeting on recent and future trends in fertility (New York, 2–4 December), which brought together experts from academic institutions, research institutes and statistical offices to examine recent trends in fertility and discuss future prospects as part of preparations for the 2010 Revision of *World Population Prospects*. To raise awareness about the implications of continued high fertility in the least developed countries, the Division produced a policy brief on the benefits of expanding access to modern family planning methods, documenting the high levels of unmet need for contraception in the least developed countries and arguing that expanding access to family planning could significantly contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality.

The Division was responsible for reporting on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health included in the revised framework for the achievement of the MDGs: contraceptive prevalence rate, adolescent birth rate and unmet need for family planning. The latter was monitored in collaboration with UNFPA. The Division provided updated estimates for each of the indicators, together with corresponding metadata, for the MDG database maintained by the UN Statistics Division. It also contributed to the database estimates of the contraceptive prevalence of modern methods and condom use, and of the spacing and limiting components of unmet need for family planning.

The Division convened an expert group meeting on health, mortality and development (New York, 10–12 November), which brought together experts and representatives of intergovernmental organizations to discuss health challenges and strategies to address such challenges, including the strengthening of health systems, and the estimation of adult mortality. The meeting also focused on methodological developments for estimating adult mortality. The Division continued to participate in the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, providing input in revising and updating the database on infant and under-five mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF. It collaborated with others in preparing the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly to review progress towards the MDGs and other international development goals, planned for September 2010. The

Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General [A/64/263] on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the meeting.

In order to assess the gender dimensions of child mortality, the Division had been preparing revised and updated estimates of infant mortality, child mortality and under-five mortality by sex for developing countries with at least one million inhabitants in 2005. A report containing an analysis of sex differentials in child mortality was being prepared. The Division also continued to compile and document data suitable for the estimation of mortality, and was developing a database containing basic data and relevant metadata for mortality estimation.

The Division issued a report on international migration in 2006 [ESA/P/WP.209], which provided an analysis of international migration levels, trends and policies. It included international migration profiles for 228 countries and areas, data for 1995 and 2005 on total population, international migrant stock, refugees and remittances, and information on Government views and policies relating to immigration and emigration levels. The Division worked on an updated version of the report.

The Division collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to organize a regional workshop on international migration statistics (Cairo, 30 June–3 July), bringing together more than 50 representatives of national statistical offices and relevant ministries from ESCWA Member States, representatives from regional and international organizations, and experts from within and outside the ESCWA region. The Division also organized the Eighth Coordination Meeting on International Migration (New York, 16–17 November) (see p. 1047).

With financial support from UNICEF and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, the Division continued to update the United Nations Global Migration Database. The database contained the most complete set of publicly available data on the foreign or the foreign-born population enumerated by censuses or population registers and classified by sex, age and country of birth or citizenship.

The Division issued the results of the 2008 Revision of *World Population Prospects*, which showed that the world population was likely to increase from 6.8 billion in 2009 to 7 billion in 2012, and was projected to surpass 9 billion by 2050. The Division also worked toward completing the 2009 Revision of *World Urbanization Prospects* and continued developing a database to integrate all empirical data used in preparing the official population estimates and projections of the United Nations.

On population policies, the Division worked towards completion of *World Population Policies 2009*, a report that provided policy information on popula-

tion growth, fertility, health and mortality, international migration and spatial distribution. To improve access to information on population policy issues, the Division was developing a relational database containing the results of all inquiries among Governments and information on population policy from other official sources. The Division also completed a report entitled *Child Adoption: Trends and Policies*, in which it discussed national legislation governing child adoption and presented data on the number of adoptions for 118 countries.

The Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized an expert group meeting on population ageing, intergenerational transfers and social protection (Santiago, Chile, 20–21 October). The meeting brought together more than 50 participants, including members of academia, representatives of international organizations and Government officials, to discuss how population ageing in Latin America and other regions was transforming the needs for economic support and social protection of different population groups. The Division also released the 2009 edition of

the Population, Resources, Environment and Development Databank, which included 120 indicators on population, resources, the environment, development and policy.

The Division's work on monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information included maintaining websites on the work of the Division, international migration and the United Nations Population Information Network. The Division continued to distribute MORTPAK for Windows, the Division's software package for demographic estimation, releasing an updated version (4.1).

The Division's programme of technical cooperation focused on building and strengthening capacity in developing countries to analyse demographic information needed to guide the formulation and implementation of population policy. The Division conducted a survey of governmental entities using or preparing demographic indicators to determine the areas most in need of capacity development. The results were being used to develop a targeted strategy for expanding the capacity of officials in developing countries to carry out demographic analysis.