

## Chapter XI

**Children, youth and ageing persons**

In 2001, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its efforts to secure the best possible start in life for every child, collaborating with multisectoral partners to ensure that all children could begin life healthy and cared for and receive education, in order to develop to their optimal potential, safe from abuse and exploitation.

UNICEF spent much of the year preparing for the United Nations General Assembly's special session on children, which, because of the 11 September terrorist attacks in New York, had to be postponed from 2001 until May 2002. In the context of the Global Movement for Children, UNICEF and key partners galvanized the support of people around the world for the cause of children, so that their voices could be heard at the special session.

In addition to being guided by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which established international standards of behaviour towards children, UNICEF's efforts were also in accordance with its medium-term plan for 1998-2001. The four core organizational priorities for that period were: enhancing partnerships and promoting advocacy on children's rights; enhancing the survival, development, protection and participation of children; improving the availability and use of data in critical areas; and strengthening management and operations. In 2001, the UNICEF Executive Board approved the medium-term strategic plan for the period 2002-2005, which established five organizational priorities: girls' education; fighting HIV/AIDS; integrated early childhood development; immunization "plus"; and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination.

Important developments in favour of children's rights during 2001 included the deposit of sufficient ratifications of the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, for them to enter into force in 2002 (see p. 595).

United Nations policies and programmes focusing on youth in 2001 strengthened the implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The Youth Employment Network, formed by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, appointed a high-level panel, which prepared policy recommendations for national action and established four top priorities: employability; equal opportunity for young men and women; entrepreneurship; and employment creation. The fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Dakar, Senegal, August) adopted the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy, which set out priority areas of action and interest adopted by young people themselves.

In preparation for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in 2002, the Commission for Social Development, acting as preparatory committee, held three sessions. The central task of the Second World Assembly would be to revise the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the first World Assembly in 1982.

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**Children**


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**United Nations Children's Fund**

Because of the 11 September terrorist attacks in New York, the General Assembly special session on children, initially scheduled for 19 to 21 September 2001, was postponed until 8 to 10 May 2002. As the secretariat for the special session, UNICEF spent much of 2001 on preparations. It was a driving force for children's participation in the preparatory process and the special session, and hosted regional consultations and other events that rallied leadership around the cause of children. With UNICEF advice and support, 150 countries collected key information about children's rights and well-being to assess progress made for children since the 1990 World Summit for Children [YUN 1990, p. 797]. That effort amounted to the most comprehensive study ever completed on the situation of children around the world.

UNICEF and its key partners in the Global Movement for Children worked to ensure that children's voices could be heard at the special session. Under the "Say Yes for Children" cam-

paign, which was launched in April, the partners devised a mechanism through which people from all walks of life could pledge their support for 10 essential actions to ensure children's rights to live in health, peace and dignity, promising to deliver the pledges to heads of State or Government attending the special session: leave no child out; put children first; care for every child; fight HIV/AIDS; stop harming and exploiting children; listen to children; educate every child; protect children from war; protect the earth for children; and fight poverty: invest in children. Nearly 100 million people in 155 countries pledged their support for those actions, indicating that the three top priority issues were educate every child, leave no child out and fight HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF's major achievements in 2001 included: a record 575 million children immunized against polio; an increase in school enrolment of girls in 21 countries; the provision of HIV/AIDS prevention support to young people in 71 countries; \$14 million worth of emergency aid to children and their families in Afghanistan; UNICEF-organized opinion polls that permitted 40,000 children on three continents to speak out on key issues; the freeing of more than 8,000 child soldiers in Sierra Leone and the Sudan; and a birth registration campaign in Bangladesh that reached 1 million infants.

UNICEF continued to form strategic alliances to focus global attention on child-specific issues. In 2001, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the international governing body for football (soccer), announced that its 2002 World Cup would be dedicated to children and joined UNICEF in promoting the well-being of children through sports.

*The State of the World's Children 2001*, UNICEF's annual flagship publication, focused on early childhood development, noting that the earliest years, from birth to age 3, influenced how the rest of childhood and adolescence would unfold. Drawing on reports from around the world, *The State of the World's Children 2001* detailed the daily lives of parents and other caregivers who were striving—in the face of war, poverty and the HIV/AIDS epidemic—to protect the rights and meet the needs of the youngest children. It made the case for giving the highest-priority attention to the time of early childhood, highlighting how choices made during the early years affected not only how a child developed, but also how a country progressed.

In 2001, UNICEF cooperated with 162 countries, areas and territories: 46 in sub-Saharan Africa; 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 34 in Asia; 20 in the Middle East and North Africa;

and 27 in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States.

Total expenditures, including write-offs, amounted to \$1,246 million (compared with \$1,103 million in 2000), of which 93 per cent (\$1,157 million) was for country programmes of cooperation; 6 per cent (\$81 million) for management and administration of the organization; and about 1 per cent (\$8 million) for write-offs and other charges. Programme expenditures by priorities were: \$364 million on integrated early childhood development; \$240 million on immunization "plus"; \$153 million on girls' education; \$146 million on the improved protection of children; and \$67 million on HIV/AIDS. UNICEF operations in 2001 were described in the *2002 UNICEF Annual Report* and the annual report of its Executive Director [E/ICEF/2002/4 (Part I) & (Part I)/Corr.1 & (Part II)].

The UNICEF Executive Board held its first regular session of 2001 (22-24 and 26 January), the annual session (4-6 June) and the second regular session (10-12 December), all in New York [E/2001/34]. The Board adopted 23 decisions during those sessions.

The Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2001/226** of 10 July, took note of the Board's report on its first regular session; an extract from the report on its annual session; and the annual report of the Executive Director covering the year 2000 [E/2001/20], which was transmitted in accordance with a January decision of the Board [dec. 2001/3].

On 12 December [dec. 2001/23], the Executive Board adopted the programme of work and dates for its 2002 sessions. The first regular session was to be held from 21 to 25 January, the annual session from 3 to 7 June and the second regular session from 16 to 20 September.

### Programme policies

In decisions related to UNICEF's programme policies, the Executive Board, on 6 June [dec. 2001/9], took note of the report entitled "A good start for every child: UNICEF programming to improve immunization services and child health, reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable disease and eradicate polio" [E/ICEF/2001/9]. In another decision of the same date [dec. 2001/11], the Board, having considered a report on sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) [E/ICEF/2001/10], encouraged the Executive Director to strengthen further UNICEF participation in SWAPs, identified on the basis of national specific needs and priorities. It requested the continuation of adequate staff training on SWAPs to enable the full participation of UNICEF in the process.

### *General Assembly special session (2002)*

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/93 [YUN 1999, p. 1113], preparations were made during 2001 for a special session of the General Assembly to review the achievement of the goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children [YUN 1990, p. 797], which was scheduled to be held in New York from 19 to 21 September. In the light of the terrorist attacks in New York on 11 September, it was decided to postpone the special session on children until 8 to 10 May 2002.

**Preparatory Committee.** The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, established by General Assembly resolution 54/93, convened its second (29 January–2 February) and third (11–15 June) substantive sessions both in New York [A/S-27/2 & Add.1]. It had held an organizational session and its first substantive session in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1132].

The second session considered organizational arrangements for the preparatory process and the special session and authorized its Bureau to prepare a revised version of the draft outcome document for the third session. Panel discussions were held on adolescent development and participation and on the girl child.

Among other documents, the Committee considered a note by its Chairperson on the participation of children and adolescents in the special session [A/AC.256/8] and a 22 January letter from Jamaica [A/55/743], transmitting the Kingston Consensus, which was endorsed by the fifth Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas (Kingston, 9–13 October 2000).

The Committee recommended for adoption by the General Assembly three draft decisions regarding arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the provisional agenda and organizational arrangements for the special session.

On 14 February (**decision 55/459**), the Assembly decided on arrangements for NGO participation in the special session.

In June, the Preparatory Committee considered the organizational arrangements for the preparatory process and the special session and the outcome document of the special session [A/AC.256/CRP.6/Rev.2 & Rev.3 (Parts I & II)], entitled “A world fit for children”. It also had before it the report of the Secretary-General [A/S-27/3] entitled “We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children”. The report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 51/186 [YUN 1996, p. 1083], 54/93 [YUN 1999, p. 1113] and 55/26 [YUN 2000, p. 1133], reviewed the implementation and results of the 1990 World Declaration and Plan of Action

[YUN 1990, p. 797], including appropriate recommendations for further action, and also elaborated on the best practices noted and obstacles encountered in the implementation. Measures to overcome those obstacles were suggested. Major thematic issues discussed in the report included: health, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation; education and literacy; special child protection measures; civil rights and freedoms; and the role of the family.

Other documents considered included: a 23 January letter from Canada transmitting the *Marchel Review 1996-2000* [A/55/749]; a 22 February letter from Canada transmitting documents of the International Conference on War-Affected Children (Winnipeg, 10–17 September 2000) [A/AC.256/14]; a 7 June letter from Germany transmitting the report of the Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia (Berlin, 16–18 May 2001) [A/AC.256/16 & Corr.1]; and a note by the Preparatory Committee’s Chairperson on participation. Panel discussions were held on children and armed conflict and on commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The Committee recommended to the General Assembly for adoption a draft resolution on the organizational arrangements for the round tables for the special session and a draft decision on the presentation of the outcome of the children’s forum to the special session. It also decided to consider and take action on the draft outcome document “A world fit for children” at its resumed third session.

**Pan-African Forum.** Egypt transmitted to the Secretary-General on 11 June [A/S-27/4] the African Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children (Cairo, 28–31 May).

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee [A/55/L.85], adopted **resolution 55/276** without vote [agenda item 42].

### **Organizational arrangements for the round tables for the special session of the General Assembly on children**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 54/93 of 7 December 1999 and 55/26 of 20 November 2000 on the preparations for the special session on children,

1. *Decides* that the special session on children shall include three interactive round-table sessions;
2. *Decides also* to adopt the organizational arrangements set out in the annex to the present resolution;
3. *Decides further* that these arrangements shall in no way create a precedent for other special sessions.

### **ANNEX**

1. The round tables shall be held as follows:

*Round table 1:* Wednesday, 19 September 2001, from 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

*Round table 2:* Thursday, 20 September 2001, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Round table 3:* Friday, 21 September 2001, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

2. The round tables shall have as their overarching theme "Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade".

3. Each round table shall have two co-chairpersons, making a total of six co-chairpersons. The co-chairpersons shall be heads of State or Government. Five co-chairpersons shall be selected from the five regional groups by 31 July 2001. The sixth co-chairperson, who shall be the head of State of the country of the President of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, will co-chair round table 3.

4. Each round table shall be limited to a maximum of 71 participants, of whom approximately 66 will be heads of delegation of Member States and approximately five will be participants representing observers and entities of the United Nations system.

5. Following the selection of the chairpersons of the round tables, each regional group should determine which of its members will participate in each round table, ensuring that equitable geographical distribution is maintained, allowing for some flexibility.

6. Thus, in order to allow for some flexibility, for each round table the maximum number of participants from each regional group shall be as follows:

African States	18 Member States
Asian States	18 Member States
Eastern European States	8 Member States
Latin American and Caribbean States	12 Member States
Western European and other States	10 Member States

7. Member States that are not members of any of the regional groups may participate in a round table of their choice.

8. For each round table, participants other than Member States, representing observers and entities of the United Nations system, will be selected by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States. In addition, the President of the Assembly, in consultation with the co-chairpersons of each round table and Member States, will choose, by 31 August 2001, two child delegates, taking into account equitable gender and geographical representation, who will each be permitted to present a brief introductory statement on the theme of the round tables in a language of their choice.

9. Each head of delegation attending a round table may be accompanied by two advisers.

10. The Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, may also participate in different round tables, to be determined in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

11. The co-chairpersons of each round table will be responsible for presenting orally their summary of the discussions during the concluding plenary meeting of the special session.

12. The round tables shall be closed to the media and the general public. Accredited delegates and observers

will be able to follow the proceedings of the round tables via a closed-circuit television in an overflow room.

The Assembly, by **decision 56/401** of 12 September, decided to postpone the special session until a date to be decided by the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

**Executive Board.** The UNICEF Executive Board, on 12 December [dec. 2001/21], decided that, in the light of the postponement until 2002 of the special session on children, the Executive Director would provide a final report on the use of funds to the Board's first regular session of 2003. The Board urged that Member States contribute to the unfunded balance of \$1,132,665 to ensure that UNICEF could adequately support the preparations and arrangements for the special session and the children's forum.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 24 December [meeting 92], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 56/222** [draft: A/56/L.7] without vote [agenda item 26 ].

#### Special session of the General Assembly on children

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 55/26 of 20 November 2000, in which it decided to convene the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children from 19 to 21 September 2001, and refer to it as the "special session on children",

*Recalling also* its decision 56/401 of 12 September 2001, by which it decided to postpone the special session on children until a date to be decided by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,

1. *Decides* to convene the special session of the General Assembly on Children from 8 to 10 May 2002;

2. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children".

Also on 24 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on follow-up to the special session would remain for consideration at its resumed fifty-sixth (2002) session (**decision 56/464**).

#### Medium-term strategic plan (2002-2005)

At its second regular session in December, the Executive Board had before it the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for the period 2002-2005 [E/ICEF/2001/13 & Corr.1], which combined a reinforced results-based management approach and a human rights-based approach to programming. Building on the lessons learned from the implementation of the medium-term plan for 1998-2001 [YUN 1998, p. 1093], the new plan established five organizational priorities, defined objectives and indicators more clearly, and strengthened the strategic use of the evaluation function. The MTSP was developed through a widespread



consultation process, involving staff at all levels from headquarters and regional and country offices.

UNICEF's five organizational priorities during the programming period would be: girls' education; integrated early childhood development; immunization "plus" (protection from vaccine-preventable diseases and micronutrient deficiencies, with lifelong benefits); fighting HIV/AIDS; and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. UNICEF's strategies to pursue those organizational priorities would be: programme excellence; effective country programmes of co-operation; partnerships for shared success; influential information, communication and advocacy; and excellence in internal management and operations.

On 12 December [dec. 2001/22], the Board welcomed the MTSP for 2002-2005 and approved the five organizational priorities for action and financial expenditure set forth in it. It also approved the MTSP as a framework of projections for 2002-2005, including the preparation of up to \$424 million in programme expenditures from regular resources to be submitted to the Board in 2002. The Executive Director was requested to review and, where necessary, propose adjustments to the MTSP, based on comments made by Board members, the results of the General Assembly's special session on children and experience in implementing the plan. She was further requested to assess progress towards the targets set within the five organizational priorities in her annual report to the Executive Board.

#### *Emergency assistance*

During 2001, UNICEF used its Emergency Programme Fund to retain emergency response capacity in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Guinea, Liberia and the Sudan, and in the Central American and South-Eastern European regions.

It also accessed funding from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund to jump-start emergency actions for children and women affected by the protracted humanitarian situation in the Sudan and to address the acute needs of internally displaced persons and refugee women and children affected by the crisis in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries.

During the year, UNICEF worked closely with the United Nations Mine Action Service, the United Nations Development Programme and other UN agencies to develop the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2001-2005 and the United Nations Sectoral Policy on Information Management for Mine Action. It also developed its own

mine action strategy, to be launched in 2002 (see also p. 828).

#### **Maurice Pate Award**

In January, the Bureau of the Executive Board asked the secretariat to review the selection process and criteria to ensure that the Maurice Pate Award, established in 1966 [YUN 1966, p. 385] in memory of UNICEF's first Executive Director, was continuing to meet its purpose. A working group held consultations throughout the year on the matter. The Board, which was to consider the group's proposals at its first regular session of 2002, decided not to make an Award for 2001 while the review was being undertaken.

#### **UNICEF programmes by region**

In 2001, UNICEF expenditures on regional programmes totalled \$1,157 million, of which \$444 million (38 per cent) went to programmes in sub-Saharan Africa; \$344 million (30 per cent) to programmes in Asia; \$101 million (9 per cent) to programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States; \$99 million (9 per cent) to programmes in the Middle East and North Africa; and \$94 million (8 per cent) to programmes in the Americas and the Caribbean. An additional \$74 million (6 per cent) went to interregional programmes.

The majority of UNICEF resources continued to be spent in the 64 low-income countries with a per capita gross national product of \$755 or less. Those countries had a total child population of 1.3 billion, or about 70 per cent of all children worldwide, and received 68 per cent of the total programme expenditure, which was 1 per cent higher than in 2000.

#### *Field visits*

Members of the UNICEF Executive Board visited the Republic of Moldova and Romania from 5 to 17 May to learn about the problems and needs of the two countries and about the countries in the region in general. It was noted that UNICEF-supported programmes of cooperation effectively complemented the countries' efforts to protect their children and women, and the lessons learned could be shared with other countries in similar situations. UNICEF was viewed as a reliable partner, with a good reputation with donors and highly skilled professional staff. It was felt that possibilities existed for improving co-operation with other agencies, especially with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund).

Executive Board members who visited the Gambia and Senegal from 5 to 17 May were im-

pressed by UNICEF's work in both countries. The challenge, which was to build true partnerships with local authorities, was being met in those countries, where the group witnessed frank, open and ongoing dialogue on all issues. It was noted that international NGOs were important partners, but the team observed that, in some cases, those organizations were competitors rather than true partners with UNICEF. Private sector support in both countries was limited, and more avenues needed to be explored to ensure more predictable funding. In the area of education, there appeared to be great progress, especially in providing separate sanitation facilities in schools and in working to harmonize Koranic schools with the mainstream education system.

In June [dec. 2001/10], the Executive Board took note of the report [E/ICEF/2001/CRP.7] and oral presentation on the field visits.

#### **UNICEF programmes by sector**

As in previous years, the largest single share of total UNICEF programme expenditure of \$1,157 million was in the area of health (\$440 million or 38 per cent). Significant shares also went to basic education (\$188 million or 16 per cent); programme support (\$145 million or 13 per cent); child protection (\$122 million or 11 per cent); water and environmental sanitation (\$98 million or 8 per cent); community development and gender (\$72 million or 6 per cent); nutrition (\$48 million or 4 per cent); and assessment, analysis and monitoring (\$45 million or 4 per cent).

A total of \$25.7 million was made available to country programmes in 2001 from the global set-aside of 7 per cent of regular resources. Based on the criteria set out in a 1997 Executive Board decision establishing the set-aside [YUN 1997, p. 1220], the Executive Director made allocations for strategic programming efforts in support of programme priorities and for additional special needs. The largest segment of funds—40 per cent—went to the global polio eradication effort and the second largest (24 per cent) went to initiatives to fight HIV/AIDS. Stronger emphasis was placed on girls' education (14 per cent) and child protection (10 per cent). The balance of the funds was allocated to other areas, including malaria prevention, early childhood development and water and environmental sanitation. Programmes in sub-Saharan Africa received 51 per cent of the funds, those in Asia 38 per cent and other regions 11 per cent.

#### **Child and adolescent health**

UNICEF continued to assist Governments in immunizing children against the "basic six" dis-

eases—polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tuberculosis and tetanus—and against other diseases, such as hepatitis B, for which newer vaccines had been developed. In 2001, the immunization focus was primarily on polio, measles and tetanus, and on the introduction of new vaccines through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). During the year, UNICEF procured over 2 billion doses of vaccines for nearly 100 developing countries, including vaccines and immunization supplies on behalf of GAVI for 23 countries approved for support from GAVI's Vaccine Fund.

Spearheaded by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other members of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the campaign to eradicate polio vaccinated a record 575 million children against the disease in 2001, reducing the number of new polio cases globally by more than 80 per cent. The number of confirmed polio cases declined from 2,979 in 20 countries in 2000 to 537 in only 10 countries in 2001. UNICEF collaborated with WHO and other Initiative members on vaccine supply and delivery and the organization of national and subnational immunization days in endemic countries.

UNICEF fought measles in more than 30 countries in 2001, helping to save the lives of over 80,000 children. Efforts were particularly directed towards Africa, where most measles deaths occurred. The Measles Initiative, launched by UNICEF and a number of partners, immunized more than 20 million children in eight African countries and reduced annual deaths due to measles in those countries by more than 47,000.

UNICEF continued to be a major partner in the Roll-Back Malaria Initiative. Collaboration between the Initiative partnership and the integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) increased. In partnership with WHO, UNICEF supported the IMCI approach in over 70 countries, emphasizing training of local health workers and strengthening family childcare practices. Community-based, family-oriented health and nutrition programmes registered achievements in Bangladesh and parts of Cambodia, India, Madagascar and Nepal, using such approaches as participatory assessment and monitoring of child development. In Malawi and other countries, SWAPs in health provided opportunities to increase the priority given to community-based approaches to child health and nutrition. However, the programmes tended to be slowed by funding shortfalls, poor-quality data and the impact of AIDS.

Consistent with IMCI and the integrated approach to early childhood development, UNICEF cooperation gave greater priority to improved

sanitation and hygiene education, including through school programmes in some 55 countries. Although affected by funding shortages in some countries, UNICEF continued to support safe water programmes, notably in response to emergencies, or as part of multisectoral approaches in disadvantaged areas. UNICEF assistance to monitoring and improving the quality of water expanded to over 30 countries. With arsenic, fluoride and nitrates joining faecal contamination as serious threats to domestic drinking water supplies and child health—especially but not only in Asia—UNICEF was assisting the development of national standards for water quality and the introduction of community surveillance systems.

Since efforts to improve the lives of children were inseparable from actions to improve the lives of women, UNICEF supported programmes in 102 countries in 2001 to secure women's rights to quality health care and freedom from discrimination and violence. Those programmes helped to reduce the death toll from tetanus and unsafe practices during childbirth and to improve women's health and nutrition.

One urgent UNICEF goal was the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS. In 2001 alone, more than 720,000 children contracted HIV from their mothers. UNICEF programmes provided women with voluntary and confidential counselling and testing, anti-retroviral drugs where needed, and counselling and support in choosing the best feeding options for their infants. UNICEF supported prevention programmes in 47 countries and was the lead agency for those efforts in several countries, including Botswana, the only nation in Africa with a national PMTCT programme; by December 2001, UNICEF had helped all health facilities in 23 districts to implement programmes.

### *Basic education*

In 2001, UNICEF emphasized girls' education and issues of quality. Several countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa reported significantly increased numbers of children enrolled in primary schools, but problems of dropouts or very poor learning achievement became more apparent in other regions. Endemic weaknesses of educational systems continued to pose challenges for many poor and conflict-affected countries, including low teachers' salaries, unreliable data, population displacement and discrimination.

In 38 countries, UNICEF supported "child-friendly" schools, which provided a welcoming and effective learning environment. In the Philippines, it helped 200 schools to join the child-

friendly schools programme, bringing the total number of children reached to 165,000. In Colombia, 11,000 children were enrolled in child-friendly schools for the first time, and Tajikistan began a new child-friendly school programme.

With regard to girls' education, UNICEF assisted 74 countries to break down the barriers that excluded girls. Programmes provided girls with scholarships and school supplies, constructed separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys, and promoted curricula and teaching methods free of gender bias. In 2001, 21 countries reported improvements in school enrolment and retention for girls. In Afghanistan, where girls were excluded from the official education system, UNICEF supported home schools for girls and boys. By the end of the year, such schools were teaching 58,000 children. During the year, Egypt undertook a major new push to end gender discrimination in schools, working with eight UN agencies in a partnership brokered by UNICEF. The UNICEF-assisted Africa Girls' Education Initiative covered 34 countries.

Educational interventions in emergencies were also a critical component of UNICEF efforts. Although the 2001 earthquake in the state of Gujarat, India, destroyed or damaged more than 12,000 primary schools, within five months UNICEF had helped the state authorities to set up and equip 2,000 tent schools for 400,000 children. In war-ravaged Sierra Leone, UNICEF's contribution of supplies, teacher training and rehabilitation of schools helped to enrol nearly 70,000 additional children in primary schools in 2001. Late in the year, there was a massive mobilization to support the commitment of the Afghan Interim Authority to re-establish educational opportunities for boys and girls throughout Afghanistan. Large-scale support was also given for the restoration of primary education in East Timor.

### *Protection from armed conflict, exploitation and abuse*

UNICEF's support with regard to protecting children from exploitation, violence and abuse focused on child labour, reducing the impact of AIDS and conflict on children, prevention of sexual abuse and trafficking, and reform of juvenile justice systems.

During the year, UNICEF helped to expand Cambodia's community-based Child Protection Networks from 52 to 225 villages and facilitated two major cross-border agreements to halt child trafficking between China and Viet Nam and among Benin, Gabon, Nigeria and Togo. Sexual exploitation and the trafficking of children gained global attention when the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploita-

tion of Children was convened in Yokohama in December, sponsored by the Government of Japan, and produced a new plan of action.

In the area of child labour, the rapid ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour [YUN 1999, p. 1388] was an important stimulus. In 2001, UNICEF supported education as a preventive strategy in some 30 countries. It also facilitated inter-country contacts for cross-border coordination in both West Africa and East Asia and participated, together with ILO, in discussions with producers to protect children on cocoa plantations.

UNICEF assisted in the care and reintegration of child soldiers in 16 countries, helped to negotiate the release of abducted child soldiers in Uganda and advocated against the recruitment of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNICEF assisted in the demobilization of over 3,500 child soldiers in the Sudan, and more than 3,600 child soldiers in Sierra Leone were helped to leave army life. With UNICEF support, thousands of former child soldiers in Sierra Leone and other countries were able to rejoin their families; obtain counselling, vocational training and education; and take other steps towards reintegrating into their communities.

Many UNICEF offices advocated or provided technical support for the better protection of children in conflict with the law and the broader reform of juvenile justice systems. The organization advocated against the detention of children except as a measure of last resort, and for the diversion of children away from the criminal justice system.

#### *Prevention of gender discrimination*

UNICEF continued to promote the elimination of discrimination against women, with emphasis on issues relating to girls. It supported the mainstreaming of gender-related concerns in consolidated appeals and emergency training materials, and participated in the gender subgroup for Afghanistan. The advancement of women was promoted in a number of countries—notably in West Africa—through training and support to small-scale enterprises, usually linked to basic service programmes.

Efforts to combat female genital mutilation received UNICEF support in more than a dozen countries through national workshops, information campaigns and partnerships with local leaders, health workers and youth clubs. Similar strategies were used to address other issues of gender-based violence, such as advocacy against “honour” killings in South Asia and partnerships with health services to assist victims of violence

in Peru. There were also new initiatives to strengthen action against early marriage.

### **Organizational and administrative matters**

#### *UNICEF finances*

UNICEF income in 2001 totalled \$1,218 million, an increase of \$86 million (8 per cent) over 2000 and of \$58 million (5 per cent) over the target of \$1,160 million established in the financial plan. As in previous years, UNICEF derived its 2001 income principally from two sources: Governments and intergovernmental organizations, which, on a net basis, contributed \$782 million (64 per cent) of total income; and non-governmental or private sector sources, which provided \$400 million (33 per cent). The balance of \$36 million (3 per cent) was derived from other miscellaneous sources. Interest was the main component of miscellaneous income.

By a 12 December decision [dec. 2001/20], the Executive Board took note of UNICEF's interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000 [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.5].

#### *Budget appropriations*

In order to allow UNICEF to take full advantage of the conclusions and outcomes of the General Assembly special session on children (initially planned for 19-21 September 2001) in the finalization of the medium-term strategic plan, the Executive Board, on 6 June [dec. 2001/12], decided to merge its second regular session with the extraordinary budget session.

On 11 December [dec. 2001/14], at the second regular session, the Board approved the Executive Director's recommendations for funding from regular and other resources in 2001 for 57 country programmes, 4 multi-country or subregional programmes, and 3 programmes with other resources proposals only, of which 2 were of a multi-country nature [E/ICEF/2001/P/L.73], amounting to the following respective amounts for regular resources and other resources by region: Africa, \$410,261,601 and \$550,535,000; Americas and the Caribbean, \$69,463,909 and \$252,135,000; Asia, \$58,159,363 and \$117,675,000; Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States, \$12,894,000 and \$66,500,000; and the Middle East and North Africa, \$82,535,229 and \$123,091,000. The Board also approved the amount of \$2,344,697 from regular resources to cover expenditures against write-off and overexpenditures due to revaluation.

Having considered the biennial support budget for 2002-2003 [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.10], the Board, on 10 December [dec. 2001/13], approved gross appropriations in the amount of \$566,169,000 for



UNICEF programme support in the field and at headquarters, and for management and administration. It resolved that income estimates of \$88,300,000 would be used to offset the gross appropriations, resulting in estimated net appropriations of \$477,869,000. The Board authorized the Executive Director to redeploy resources between appropriation lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources were redeployed.

On 11 December [dec. 2001/15], the Board approved the allocation of additional regular resources totalling \$12,762,102 to fund the approved country programmes of 11 countries for 2001 and 11 countries for 2002, as recommended by the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2001/P/L.72]. It also approved the one-year extension of the Amazon subregional programme for social action to allow time to prepare a new programme proposal to start in 2003.

Also on 11 December [dec. 2001/16], the Board approved a regular resources programme budget of \$19.67 million (other than the Emergency Programme Fund) for 2002-2003. The budget for that Fund for 2002-2003 was approved for \$25 million. The Executive Director was authorized to transfer, if necessary, between the programme fields an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved budget of the fund to which the transfer was made. The Board also approved a resources-funded programme budget of \$203 million for the 2002-2003 biennium, subject to availability of specific-purpose contributions. Further, a total recommendation of \$203 million for other resources funding was approved for the biennium.

#### Audits

On 24 January [dec. 2001/6], the Executive Board took note of the UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1999 and the report of the Board of Auditors [A/55/5/Add.2], and the UNICEF report to the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.2], which reported on steps taken in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on UNICEF accounts for the 1998-1999 biennium and the status of implementation of the Board's recommendations on the 1996-1997 UNICEF accounts.

In its fourth annual report [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.7], the Office of Internal Audit stated that in 2000 it had completed 34 audits of field offices and found that overall control in most locations was satisfactory. On 12 December [dec. 2001/18], the Executive Board took note of the report.

On 11 December [dec. 2001/17], the Board took note of the UNICEF report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and ACABQ [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.8] on steps taken or to be taken in response to the Board's recommendations on the UNICEF accounts for the 1998-1999 and 1996-1997 bienniums.

#### Operational reserve

As recommended by ACABQ in 1999, UNICEF conducted a review of the advantages and disadvantages of establishing an operational reserve for both regular and other resources [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.3], which it submitted to the Executive Board's first regular session in January. The review, having considered the existing financial management framework and liquidity policy, concluded that enhancements to UNICEF financial management systems, together with increased government and National Committee support, would enhance the Fund's ability to manage cash resources even more effectively. Therefore, the establishment of a funded operational reserve was unwarranted. In a related report [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.4], ACABQ recommended that the Executive Board keep the issue of establishing an operational reserve under review.

On 24 January [dec. 2001/7], the Board took note of the UNICEF and ACABQ reports and decided that UNICEF should continue its current practice based on management of its short-term liquidity requirement on a cash-flow basis and should not establish a funded operating reserve. It also decided to keep the issue of establishing an operational reserve under review and to consider it further in 2003, taking into account the ACABQ report on the biennial support budget of UNICEF for 2002-2003 and the report of the Board of Auditors for 2000-2001.

#### Resource mobilization

During 2001, UNICEF developed new ways of collaborating with Governments for mobilizing regular and other resources, holding 15 formal and informal consultations with donor Governments and partners on various aspects of co-operation, including core financial support. UNICEF also entered into five new framework agreements with donor Governments.

At the pledging event in January, 66 Governments (28 donor and 38 programme Governments) pledged or indicated tentative pledges of \$346 million; 11 more countries announced pledges than in 2000.

A total of 91 countries contributed to UNICEF regular resources in 2001, 27 of them members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development. The United States remained the largest government donor, contributing \$216 million, followed by Japan (\$97 million), the United Kingdom (\$74 million) and the Netherlands (\$69 million). Compared to prior years, 35 countries increased their contributions.

#### *Private Sector Division*

Net income from the UNICEF Private Sector Division (PSD) for the year ending 31 December 2001 totalled \$161.1 million for regular resources, compared to \$163.3 million in 2000 [E/ICEF/2002/AB/L.3]. That amount included \$31.1 million from the sale of UNICEF cards and products, \$147 million from private sector fund-raising activities, and an offset of \$17 million for other charges and adjustments. In addition, \$174.2 million (\$146.2 million in 2000) was raised from private sector fund-raising activities that were earmarked for other resources. The net consolidated income, including both regular and other resources, amounted to \$335.3 million (\$309.5 million in 2000).

On 24 January [dec. 2001/5], the Executive Board approved budgeted expenditures of \$87.7 million for the PSD work plan for 2001 [E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1]. The Executive Director was authorized to redeploy resources between the various budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved and to spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2001 approved work plan. The Board approved changes in posts with a net decrease of four posts as indicated in the proposed budget; renewed the Market Development Programme (\$3.4 million), the Fund-raising Development Programme (\$7 million), the Central and Eastern National Committees Development Programme (\$0.4 million) and the Nordic Investment Programme (\$4.1 million). It also authorized the Executive Director to incur expenditures in 2001 related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for 2002 up to \$32.5 million.

In December [dec. 2001/19], the Board took note of the PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1139].

#### *JIU reports*

In January, the Executive Board had before it a secretariat note on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) prepared between June 1999 and August 2000 of relevance to UNICEF [E/ICEF/2001/5].

On 22 January [dec. 2001/4], the Board requested the Executive Director to submit JIU reports to it along with a brief summary and recommendations for Board action. She was also asked to inform the Board of measures taken to implement JIU's recommendations.

#### *Coordinating Committee on Health*

At its third session (New York, 19-20 April) [E/ICEF/2001/11], the WHO/UNICEF/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Coordinating Committee on Health reviewed progress in implementing its 2000 recommendations [YUN 2000, p. 1140], discussed the role of SWAPs for health and development at the country level, and reviewed the resolutions and decisions of the governing bodies of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA adopted since the Committee's second session that were relevant to its work.

The Executive Board, on 5 June [dec. 2001/8], approved the Committee's report.

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## **Youth**

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### **Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth**

In 2001, UN policies and programmes on youth continued to focus on the implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 50/81 [YUN 1995, p. 1211]. The Programme of Action addressed the problems faced by youth worldwide and outlined ways to enhance youth participation in national and international policy- and decision-making.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In a July report [A/56/180], submitted in response to Assembly resolution 54/120 [YUN 1999, p. 1123], the Secretary-General reviewed progress in implementing the Programme of Action, which was based on information received from Member States, the UN system and statements made by Member States during the 2000 session of the Assembly, as well as on information collected by the Secretariat, and focused on priority youth issues for the twenty-first century: globalization and empowerment of youth.

The report summarized action taken at the national, regional and global levels to implement the Programme of Action and described youth participation at the United Nations. Annexed to the report was a table indicating the status of implementation of national youth policies, coordi-

nation mechanisms and programmes of action as at May 2001.

### Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

In a 28 September letter to the President of the General Assembly [A/56/422], the Secretary-General referred to his report to the Millennium Summit in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 55], in which he called the attention of world leaders to the urgency of addressing the problem of unemployment and underemployment of young people. That challenge had been taken up in the Millennium Declaration, contained in Assembly resolution 55/2 [ibid., p. 49], in which heads of State and Government resolved to develop and implement strategies that gave young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.

The Secretary-General, in collaboration with ILO and the World Bank, had formed the Youth Employment Network and appointed a high-level panel to prepare a set of policy recommendations. The recommendations of the Youth Employment Network and its High-level Panel were attached to his letter. The recommendations were based on a new approach and a new partnership between national Governments and global organizations for full employment: young people were an asset in building a better world, not a problem; heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit had given a firm political commitment to developing and implementing strategies to give young people a real chance to find decent and productive work; and there was great potential for improving the employment situation through the integration of public policies for young women and men in overall employment policies. The Panel identified four top priorities for all national action plans: employability, equal opportunities for young men and women, entrepreneurship and employment creation.

Noting that translating those priorities into national action plans was only a start towards meeting the common goal of decent and productive employment for young people, the Panel recommended that the heads of the United Nations, the World Bank and ILO provide guidance and organize technical support for the policy-making process over the coming years, with ILO having lead responsibility for the effort. The Panel also made 12 recommendations to provide a guide to the range of actions to improve the position of young people in the labour market. They covered: a youth employment dimension integrated into comprehensive employment strategies; strong institutional support for youth employment policies; investment in education, training and life-

long learning; a bridge between the informal and the mainstream economies; the potential of information and communication technologies; new sources of work in the service sector; entrepreneurship and enterprise development; access of youth to employment services and support; a social floor for working youth; partnership for youth employment; an enabling international environment; and the future of the Youth Employment Network.

### Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy

By a 4 October letter [A/C.3/56/2], Senegal submitted to the Secretary-General the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy, which was adopted by the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Dakar, 6-10 August). The document, designed to strengthen the Braga (Portugal) Youth Action Plan developed at the third (1998) session of the World Youth Forum [YUN 1998, p. 1103], set out priority areas of action and interest identified by young people themselves.

Several youth empowerment strategies were identified in the areas of education and information and communication technologies; employment; health and population; hunger, poverty and debt; human settlements and the environment; social integration; a culture of peace; youth policy, participation and rights; young women and girls; youth, sports and leisure-time activities; and the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and implementing the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy and the Braga Youth Action Plan.

Annexed to the Strategy was a statement on HIV/AIDS by the young people attending the Forum.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/56/572], adopted **resolution 56/117** without vote [agenda item 108].

### Policies and programmes involving youth

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto, as an integral part of that resolution,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 32/135 of 16 December 1977 and 36/17 of 9 November 1981, by which it adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, and 40/14 of 18 November 1985, entitled "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace", by which it endorsed the guidelines for further planning and suit-

able follow-up in the field of youth as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year on its fourth session, held at Vienna from 25 March to 3 April 1985,

*Recalling further* its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Dakar Framework for Action at the World Education Forum,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000, and recognizing that the Declaration includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

*Recalling and reaffirming* the commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990 and their follow-up processes,

*Noting in particular* that, in the World Programme of Action, regional and interregional conferences of ministers responsible for youth affairs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia were invited to intensify their cooperation and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide an effective forum for a focused global dialogue on youth-related issues,

*Recalling* that, in the World Programme of Action, the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System was invited to contribute to the implementation of the Programme through the identification and promotion of joint initiatives to further its objectives so that they could better reflect the interests of youth,

*Welcoming* the support of the Government of Senegal for the holding of the fourth session of the World Youth Forum at Dakar from 6 to 10 August 2001,

*Acknowledging* that poverty, among other factors, represents a serious challenge to the full and effective participation and contribution of young people to society,

*Recognizing* that global cross-sectoral youth policies should take into consideration the empowerment and full and effective participation of young people, and their role as a resource and as independent decision-makers in all sectors of society,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

2. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action, aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth;

3. *Also calls upon* all parties concerned, as mentioned in paragraph 2 above, within the framework of the World Programme of Action, to consider the appropriate ways and means to provide follow-up to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work by the regional commissions to implement the World Programme of Action and to follow up the World Conference in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region, and encourages them to continue to do so;

5. *Invites* all relevant programmes and funds, the specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and regional financial institutions, to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes as a way to follow up the World Conference;

6. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular youth organizations, to exchange knowledge and expertise on youth-related issues, upon setting up the ways and means to do so;

7. *Welcomes* the public information activities organized by the Secretariat for International Youth Day, 12 August, as a way to promote better awareness, especially among youth, of the World Programme of Action;

8. *Recognizes* that information and communications technology plays a crucial role as a potential means of promoting participation, access to information and education and networking possibilities for young people;

9. *Welcomes* the fact that the special session of the General Assembly on children will also discuss issues relevant to youth;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Senegal for its support to the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Dakar from 6 to 10 August 2001, where, once again, youth delegates had the opportunity to meet and debate strategies for youth empowerment;

11. *Affirms* that future sessions of the World Youth Forum should integrate an active and representative involvement of youth organizations and young people into all planning, reviewing and decision-making processes, and invites the Secretary-General to conduct a thorough review of and provide recommendations on the Forum's structure, organization, participation, including to ensure that it is fully representative of all geographical regions and of a diversity of views, and processes, taking into account the views of Member States and youth organizations, and, in this context, to include this matter in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of youth and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the World Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation and of the need to support the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations, bearing in mind that young people are active agents for positive change and development in society;

13. *Also recognizes* the great importance of the empowerment of youth through building the capacity of



young people to achieve greater independence, overcoming constraints to their participation and providing them with opportunities to make decisions that affect their life and well-being;

14. *Reaffirms* the decision of the heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, welcomes in this context the Secretary-General's initiative to create a Youth Employment Network, and invites the Secretary-General to continue with these initiatives;

15. *Expresses deep concern* over the fact that, currently, approximately half of new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections are in youth aged 15 to 24 years and that no fewer than 6,500 young people are infected by the virus each day, and reiterates the need to achieve the goals and commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, held at Headquarters from 25 to 27 June 2001;

16. *Reaffirms* the importance of schooling and education, in particular for girls and young women, and recognizes the value of all forms of lifelong learning, including formal education and training and non-formal education;

17. *Calls upon* Member States, all United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to continue to implement fully the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/14, and the guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations which the Assembly adopted by its resolutions 32/135 and 36/17, and in particular to facilitate, in accordance with these resolutions, the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the important role of the United Nations Youth Fund in the implementation of agreed programmes and mandates on youth, including the provision of support for youth activities promoting South-South cooperation, and support for the participation of young delegates from the least developed countries at the fourth session of the World Youth Forum;

19. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to encourage contributions;

20. *Reiterates* the call made in the World Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States;

21. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/7 of 24 July 2001, in which the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development would review the relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups and the global situation of youth in 2003, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive report on this issue, with con-

crete and action-oriented recommendations, to the Commission at its forty-first session, bearing in mind the need for Member States to develop more holistic and cross-sectoral youth policies and the need to enhance, inter alia, the channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action.

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## Ageing persons

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### Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002)

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/262 [YUN 2000, p. 1141], the Commission for Social Development, during 2001, acted as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, which, as decided in Assembly resolution 55/58 [ibid., p. 1142], would be held in Madrid, Spain, from 8 to 12 April 2002.

**Commission for Social Development (February/March and April/May).** The Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee held its first session in New York from 26 February to 2 March and on 30 April and 1 May 2001 [E/2001/71].

In addition to a number of documents on procedural and organizational questions, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the Second World Assembly on Ageing" [E/CN.5/2001/PC/2 & Corr.1]. The Secretary-General stated that the World Assembly would be devoted to the overall review of the outcome of the first World Assembly on Ageing, which was held in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1182], and to the adoption of a revised plan of action and a long-term strategy on ageing in the context of a society for all ages, the theme of the 1999 International Year of Older Persons [YUN 1999, p. 1124]. His report reviewed the preparations for the Second World Assembly and included an extended draft framework for the revised International Plan of Action on Ageing. The main body of the revised Plan of Action identified three priority directions for policy action: sustaining development in an ageing world; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments for all ages.

The Commission, acting as the preparatory committee, recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval for adoption by the General Assembly (see below) of a draft resolution on the United Nations Trust Fund for Age-

ing and draft decisions on arrangements regarding participation of NGOs in the World Assembly and on its provisional rules of procedure. The Commission also recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft decision on its report and the provisional agenda for its second session (see below). In addition, the Commission adopted three decisions that it brought to the Council's attention. By a decision on abuse against older persons [dec. 2001/PC/1], the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to its second (2002) session. In the second decision [dec. 2001/PC/2], the Commission decided to meet in resumed session on 30 April and 1 May and for one week in November (subsequently changed to 10-14 December), in order to complete the work of its first session. In the third decision [dec. 2001/PC/3], the Commission established arrangements regarding the accreditation of NGOs to the Second World Assembly.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing on its first session and approved the provisional agenda for the second session (**decision 2001/239**).

On the same date, the Council adopted **decision 2001/237**, recommending to the General Assembly a draft decision on arrangements regarding participation of NGOs in the Second World Assembly (see Assembly decision 56/426 below).

Also on the same date, the Council adopted **decision 2001/238**, recommending to the General Assembly, for adoption by the Second World Assembly, the provisional rules of procedure for the Second World Assembly (see General Assembly decision 56/427 below).

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to resolution 54/262 [YUN 2000, p. 1141], the Secretary-General submitted a July report on preparations for the Second World Assembly [A/56/152]. In addition to describing the work of the preparatory committee (see above), the report outlined the format of the World Assembly, which would comprise a political segment, responsible for the central task of preparing the revised International Plan of Action on Ageing, and other associated events, including a series of round-table discussions under the sponsorship of the host Government; an NGO forum, to be held in Madrid prior to and during the Assembly; and a research forum, to take place in Valencia the week before the Assembly.

Member States had been invited to submit additional comments on the draft revised Plan to the Secretariat by 25 June and the preparatory committee set the end of August as the deadline for the secretariat to complete the draft to allow Member States and the international community to review it before the preparatory committee's December meeting.

Activities in preparation for the Second World Assembly took place during the year: a meeting of UN system organizations (6-7 March) discussed preparations and opportunities for future collaboration; the Department of Public Information published the brochure *Building a Society for All Ages* and unveiled the Assembly's logo; and the UN programme on ageing published the *World Ageing Situation* [Sales No. E.00.IV.4], a compilation of studies on global trends and emerging issues on ageing. Planned events included a regional preparatory consultation, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Macao, China, September) and an expert group meeting to explore approaches to alleviating urban and rural poverty in old age, especially among older women in developing countries and countries with economies in transition (October).

**Commission for Social Development (December).** The Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing held its resumed first session from 10 to 14 December [E/2001/71/Add.1].

The Commission brought two decisions to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The first [dec. 2001/PC/3] listed 26 NGOs that it had decided to accredit to the Second World Assembly; and the second [dec. 2001/PC/4] took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (see above).

By **decision 2001/327** of 20 December, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its resumed first session.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December, the General Assembly adopted **decision 56/426**, by which it established the arrangements regarding participation of NGOs in the Second World Assembly on Ageing. On the same date, by **decision 56/427**, the Assembly recommended for adoption by the Second World Assembly the provisional rules of procedure, which were annexed to the decision.

On 24 December [meeting 92], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee

[A/56/573], adopted **resolution 56/228** without vote [agenda item 109].

#### **Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 54/24 of 10 November 1999 and its resolution 54/262 of 25 May 2000, by which it decided to convene the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in Spain in April 2002, as well as its resolution 55/58 of 4 December 2000 on the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 54/262, the General Assembly decided that the Commission for Social Development would serve as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Reiterating that the Second World Assembly should give particular attention, inter alia, to linkages between ageing and development, with particular attention to the needs, priorities and perspectives of developing countries,

Reaffirming the necessity of ensuring that the Second World Assembly will provide an action-oriented follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, and recognizing the importance of an adequate preparatory process,

Affirming that the long-term strategy and revised plan of action on ageing to be adopted at the Second World Assembly should be realistic and relevant so that its implementation can be followed up effectively,

Reaffirming that the strategy and plan of action will contain realistic financial recommendations for implementation,

Aware of the need for the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to collaborate among themselves to support and follow up the implementation of the strategy and plan of action,

Recognizing the importance of the contributions of the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to the preparations for the Second World Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

2. Recommends that the preparatory committee give due consideration to the period to be covered by the long-term strategy and revised plan of action on ageing to be adopted at the Second World Assembly;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the full range of tasks of the United Nations programme on ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to ensuring, as a matter of urgency, that the programme can effectively fulfil its tasks, including those that might arise from the implementation of the outcome of the Second World Assembly;

4. Invites all relevant agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to coordinate better their response to the global ageing of populations and to integrate within their respective mandates their programmes and activities related to older persons, taking

into account the importance of the perspective of older persons;

5. Invites the Second World Assembly to address, inter alia, the question of abuse of and discrimination against older persons;

6. Invites Member States, where appropriate, to consider extending the mandate of national committees or other mechanisms established on the occasion of the International Year of Older Persons in order to undertake national preparations for the Second World Assembly, and invites those Member States currently without such mechanisms to consider appropriate ways or mechanisms for their preparations for the Second World Assembly;

7. Invites the regional commissions, within their respective mandates, to explore the feasibility of undertaking regional activities with Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society in their region to participate in and follow up the Second World Assembly;

8. Invites the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to continue, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the host country, the information campaign for the Second World Assembly;

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

On the same date (**decision 56/464**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-sixth (2002) session.

#### **Trust Fund**

On 24 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing [E/2001/71], adopted **resolution 2001/8** without vote [agenda item 14 (b)].

#### **United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing**

*The Economic and Social Council*

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:  
[For text, see General Assembly resolution 56/118 below.]

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 19 December [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/56/573], adopted **resolution 56/118** without vote [agenda item 109].

#### **United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing**

*The General Assembly,*

Noting the importance of the participation of developing countries and the least developed countries in the preparatory process for the Second World Assembly on Ageing and in the World Assembly itself,

Recalling its resolution 54/262 of 25 May 2000, in which it encouraged Member States and other actors

to, inter alia, provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in support of preparatory activities for the Second World Assembly, including the participation of the least developed countries,

1. *Urges* all Member States and other actors to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing, to support preparatory activities for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in particular to fa-

cilitate the fullest participation of the least developed countries, and to support public information activities to promote the Second World Assembly and its outcome;

2. *Urges* all States and public and private organizations to contribute to the Trust Fund to support public information activities to promote the Second World Assembly and its outcome.