

**Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs
Supplement No. 8**

(Revised advance version, to be issued in volume IV of Supplement No. 8 (forthcoming) of the
Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs)

VOLUME IV

ARTICLE 55

PLEASE NOTE: The following consists of Part I of the study, on the “Economic and Social Fields,” pertaining to paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 55.

The remainder of the study, namely Part II on “Human rights” will be forthcoming.

ARTICLE 55**CONTENTS**

	<i>Paragraphs</i>
Text of Article 55	
Introductory Note	1-2
I. Economic and social fields	3-219
A. General Survey	3-126
1. General Remarks	3-45
2. Decisions with regard to co-operation and technical assistance for development.....	46-52
3. Decisions with regard to financing economic development.....	53-54
4. Institutional arrangements and national capacities.....	55-65
a. Questions relating to administrative, fiscal, legislative and statistical matters.....	55-56
b. Decisions with regard to population matters.....	57-58
c. Science and technology	59-62
d. Industrial development	63
e. Transport and communications.....	64-65
5. Decisions regarding rational use of natural resources and the human environment.....	66-82
a. Natural resources	66-71
b. Protection and preservation of the human environment	72-82
6. Decisions with regard to the least developed countries.....	83-86
7. Decisions with regard to international trade.....	87-92
8. Decisions with regard to social development and policies.....	93-115
9. Decisions with regard to transnational corporations	116-118
10. Decisions regarding disaster relief	119-126
B. Analytical summary.....	127
1. The role of the Principal organs of the United Nations in respect of promoting economic and social development, and solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems	127
a. The eighteenth special session of the General Assembly.....	128-135
b. Decisions with respect to entrepreneurship.....	136-153
c. Decisions with regard to the eradication of poverty	154-172
d. Efforts towards the prevention and control	

of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	173-184
e. Measures for strengthening international co-operation to protect the environment.....	185-195
f. Decisions with respect to crime prevention and organized crime.....	196-219
 **2. The role of the Principal organs of the United Nations in respect of promoting international educational and cultural co-operation	
 II. Human rights	

TEXT OF ARTICLE 55

With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote:

- a. higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- b. solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational co-operation; ...
- c. universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The presentation and organization of the material in this study follows the pattern established in the previous studies of Article 55 of the *Repertory* and its *Supplements*. As in the previous *Supplements*, the material is divided into two parts, dealing with economic and social matters, and with human rights. Each part is divided into a general survey and an analytical summary of practice. The General Survey gives a broad view of the activities of the United Nations in those fields consonant with the words "shall promote" in Article 55. With regard to the General Survey for Part I, the reader will note that the topic headings in this *Supplement* have been revised. Consonant with the approach taken in *Supplement Nos. 5, 6 and 7*, the Analytical Summary for Part I provides an understanding of the functional work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General on those agenda items relevant to promoting the goals of Article 55 (a) and (b). An account of the ways and means used by the United Nations to achieve the purposes of Article 55 through the exercise of specified functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council is contained in this *Supplement* in the studies on the Articles which set forth these functions and powers.

2. As in the previous studies, the question of the scope given to the objectives of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields are set forth in paragraphs a, b, and c of Article 55, in the Preamble of the Charter, and in certain other Articles,¹ is dealt with in this *Supplement* solely in the study of a single Article, namely, Article 55.

I. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

¹ See *Repertory*, under Article 55, para. 4 and related table.

A. GENERAL SURVEY

1. GENERAL REMARKS

3. During the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations continued to consider the promotion of economic and social development, as well as international educational and cultural co-operation. No direct reference relating to the interpretation of Article 55 was made. In a number of instances, the provisions of Article 55 (a) & (b) were recalled and reaffirmed.

4. Both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council noted with concern the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation in the developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries.² The principal organs continued to emphasize the role of the United Nations in promoting continued cooperative efforts towards the revitalization of development.³ The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council acknowledged the need to continue to strengthen multilateralism as the foundation for international economic co-operation to create a supportive international economic environment for sustained world growth and development.⁴

5. As affirmed in its resolution 48/162, the General Assembly continued to serve as the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter. It constitutes “the main forum where Governments pursue the development dialogue, which includes all these issues, in its political context,” with the goal of promoting “an integrated view of matters relating to the economic, social and related fields in order to build and deepen the political understanding required for enhanced international development co-operation, to generate impulses for action and to launch initiatives.”⁵ The Council continued to serve as a central forum for major economic, social and related issues and policies as well as for coordination in these fields relating to the United Nations system. The roles of the United Nations in this field may be summarized as encompassing: analytical work on different aspects of economic and social development problems, both national and international; the facilitation of international dialogue for addressing those problems; the convening and preparation of conferences on major issues; the elaboration and negotiation of guidelines, understanding, conventions and agreements, some legal or quasi-legal; the collection and dissemination of information, and; the provision of technical assistance and operational activities for development.⁶

6. The General Assembly continued to examine the long-term trends in economic and social development.⁷ The revitalization and reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries was a frequent theme in the decisions of the principal organs.⁸ The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, took a decision regarding economic stabilization programmes in developing countries, stressing that adequate measures should be taken at the international and national levels, as appropriate, to counteract the negative effects of the economic conditions prevailing in most developing countries during the past decade. The Assembly stated the view that structural adjustment programmes, in the context of the attainment of macroeconomic balance, should contribute to modernization, diversification and growth of developing country economies and to the fulfillment of the aim of improving the human condition, especially the standard of living and quality of life of people, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups of the population. The Assembly further stated that structural adjustment programmes should

² See e.g., G A resolution 44/56.

³ See e.g., G A resolution 44/231 and E S C resolution 1989/110.

⁴ See e.g., G A resolution 45/194; E S C resolution 1989/111.

⁵ G A resolution 48/162.

⁶ See e.g., G A resolution 45/199, annex, V, para. 103.

⁷ See e.g., G A resolution 43/194.

⁸ See e.g., G A resolutions 47/178,

contain appropriate measures for long-term and sustained development, within the context of a supportive international economic environment: thus, the Assembly recommended that the international community should continue efforts to find durable solutions in areas such as external indebtedness, increase in transfer of resources to developing countries, a more open and durable viable trading system, and should coordinate macroeconomic policies to take full account of the interests and concerns of all countries, particularly the developing countries.⁹

7. In this same light, with respect to international co-operation in the economic and social fields, the principal organs continued to call for a dialogue on key development issues with the purpose of building confidence in and improving generally the framework of international economic relations.¹⁰ The dialogue that emerged led to the adoption of several consensus documents important to all aspects of United Nations decisions in the economic and social sectors during the period. It will be recalled¹¹ that, at its forty-third session, the General Assembly had decided to convene, in April 1990, a special session devoted to international economic co-operation, and in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development in developing countries.¹² At its eighteenth special session, the Assembly adopted resolution S-18/3 containing the Declaration on Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of Developing Countries. Both the Council¹³ and the Assembly¹⁴ took decisions on the implementation of commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration throughout the period under review.

8. As will be seen below, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 adopted by the Conference,¹⁵ became paramount in the decisions of the principal organs in the economic and social fields. The principal organs made frequent reference to these instruments in virtually all fields of socio-economic development that they addressed.¹⁶

9. Also during the period, the General Assembly, by its resolution 45/199, proclaimed the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and adopted the International Development Strategy, annexed to that resolution. As in past Development Decades, the Strategy for the Fourth Decade sets out an analysis of the current state of the world economy, of continuing problems in achieving development – *e.g.*, external debt, reduction in external resource flows, and declining terms of trade and mounting barriers to market access, as well as of the progress in achieving the goals of the Third Decade. The Strategy also articulated a set of goals, objectives, and policy measures.¹⁷ In contrast to past Strategies, the Strategy for the Fourth Decade did not seek to establish comprehensive and interrelated sectoral targets to be attained by the developing countries as a whole.¹⁸ With regard to goals and objectives, the Strategy identified six interrelated goals:

“a) A surge in the pace of economic growth in the developing countries;

(b) A development process that is responsive to social needs, seeks a significant reduction in extreme poverty, promotes the development and utilization of human resources and skills and is

⁹ G A resolution 45/194.

¹⁰ *See e.g.*, E S C resolution 1989/110.

¹¹ *See Supplement No. 7*, para. 6, under this Article.

¹² G A decision 43/460. *See infra*, Analytical Summary, section B. 1. a.

¹³ *See e.g.*, E S C resolution 1990/54.

¹⁴ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 49/92.

¹⁵ G A resolution 47/190.

¹⁶ *See e.g.*, G A resolutions 47/197,

¹⁷ G A resolution 45/199, annex, I, II and III.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 18.

environmentally sound and sustainable;

(c) An improvement of the international systems of money, finance and trade so as to support the development process;

(d) A setting of strength and stability in the world economy and sound macro-economic management, nationally and internationally;

(e) A decisive strengthening of international development co-operation;

(f) A special effort to deal with the problems of the least developed countries, the weakest among the developing countries.”

The Strategy singled out a number of areas of special priority: the eradication of poverty and hunger, human resources and institutional development, population, the environment and food and agriculture.

10. With regard to policies and measures, the Strategy covered two main areas: 1) the reactivation of development, dealing with economic policy frameworks, external debt, development finance, international trade and commodities, and 2) measures for science and technology, industrial policies, and agriculture. The Strategy also contained measures and policies for the aforementioned priority aspects of development. The Strategy devoted a section to special situations, including those of the least developed countries,¹⁹ and to the role of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy.²⁰

11. In the context of the restructuring and revitalization process of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, during the period under review,²¹ the General Assembly, recalling the commitment under the Charter of the United Nations to employ international machinery to promote economic and social advancement of all peoples, requested the Secretary-General to submit an agenda for development at its forty-eighth session. Such an agenda should contain an analysis of and recommendations on ways to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in the promotion of international co-operation for development.²² At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly welcomed the World Hearings on Development promoted by the President of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, providing a substantive contribution to the ongoing debates on an agenda. The Assembly decided to establish an *ad hoc* open-ended working group of the General Assembly to elaborate further an action-oriented comprehensive agenda, taking into account the reports and recommendations of the Secretary-General, the outcome of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, the views expressed by the representative in the high-level debate held at that session of the General Assembly, and the summary of the World Hearings.²³ The Assembly considered the Declaration on Economic Co-operation, the Strategy for the Fourth Development Decade and the agenda for development as mutually supportive and closely interlinked in promoting sustained economic growth and development.²⁴

12. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly reaffirmed the need to strengthen constructive dialogue to promote further international economic co-operation for development, to be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibilities and the partnership for sustainable development as established at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In this vein, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, IV.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, V.

²¹ See paras. 24-31 below.

²² G A resolution 47/181.

²³ G A resolution 49/126.

²⁴ G A resolution 49/92.

recommendations on ways to promote that dialogue.²⁵ At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly invited the working group on the agenda for development to give consideration to the Secretary-General's proposal to conduct a dialogue and convene special sessions of the Assembly in the early part of the sessions during the presence of high-level representatives on major themes relevant to current and emerging economic and social issues in the global agenda.²⁶ Finally, the General Assembly continued to promote international economic security.²⁷

13. The organization continued to establish goals, targets and programmes for action in the economic, social and related fields. During the period under review, the principal organs provided the overall framework of international co-operation for development:

Important milestones of global consensus to promote international economic co-operation include the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, held from 23 April to 1 May 1990, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the final documents adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992, in particular the Declaration and the document entitled "A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment", the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990. The various conventions and consensus agreements, especially Agenda 21, which were adopted at the level of heads of State and Government at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, mark the beginning of a new global partnership for sustainable development. All these landmarks together provide the overall framework of international co-operation for development.

14. In contrast with the past, during the period under review, the principal organs referred less frequently resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) on the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) and 3362 (S-VII) on development and international economic co-operation.²⁸ By its resolution 44/170, the General Assembly called upon all States to take concrete steps and measures to implement fully the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contributing to the effective restructuring of the international economic system and to the reactivation of the economic growth and development of developing countries. In addition, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 34/150 and 35/166 entitled "Consolidation and progressive development of the principles and norms of international economic law relating in particular to the legal aspects of the new international economic order", and its resolutions 36/107, 37/103, 38/128, 39/75, 40/67, 41/73, 42/149 and 43/162, entitled "Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order", the Organization continued to promote the new international economic order ostensibly in furtherance of the goals of Article 55 as well as of Article 13(1)(a) of the United Nations Charter.

15. The evolution in East-West relations during the period under review brought about effects on the growth of the world economy and on international economic co-operation. In the International Development Strategy adopted in resolution 45/199, the General Assembly pointed out that:

²⁵ G A resolution 48/165.

²⁶ G A resolution 49/95.

²⁷ G A resolution 44/231.

²⁸ See *volume V, Supplement No. 5* and *volume IV, Supplement No. 6* under this Article. See e.g., G A resolutions 44/30 and 46/52.

far-reaching developments have taken place on the international scene that provide new opportunities for reversing the trends of the 1980s. The relaxation of international tensions offers an opportunity for reducing military spending worldwide, for a reduction of the strains on national economies and for the application of larger resources to the fight against world poverty. The waning of ideological conflicts is improving the climate of co-operation at all levels.

The principal organs addressed the question of integration of the economies in transition into the world economy, recognizing that such integration should have a positive impact on world trade, economic growth and development. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to coordinate and strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to conduct analytical and policy advice activities regarding changes taking place in the economies in transition during their integration into the world economy.²⁹ The Assembly continued to call for the United Nations system to continue providing studies, analytical activities, policy advice and technical assistance to economies in transition. The Assembly also called upon the United Nations system to study possible ways of enhancing economic and technical co-operation among countries with economies in transition.³⁰ The Council took decisions to promote the activities of the United Nations in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States.³¹ In this regard, the principal organs placed emphasis on the question of the effect of these changes in the global economy on the developing countries. The General Assembly called upon the international community to consider assisting developing countries whose economies had been most affected by the changes in their economic relations with Central and Eastern European countries. In addition, the Assembly urged Member States to consider, where appropriate, triangular arrangements which also would involve or benefit developing countries in the supply of the relevant requirements of the Central and Eastern European countries.³²

16. The Assembly further signaled that, while there was no universal prescription for successful development, a consensus was emerging with respect to effective approaches to economic and social development and with regard to the potential contributions to the development process of the private and public sectors, individuals and enterprises and democratic rights and freedoms. In the economic and social fields, the principal organs gave considerable focus to the question of entrepreneurship and privatisation in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development. With regard to the former, it will be recalled that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, noting that indigenous entrepreneurs could play a crucial role in mobilizing resources and promoting economic growth and socio-economic development, had invited the Secretary-General and the other relevant organs of the United Nations system, *inter alia*, to continue to support, through technical co-operation projects, the efforts of States in encouraging indigenous entrepreneurs in the private, public and/or other sectors.³³ The Assembly recognized that there existed no universal prescription for successful development, and reaffirmed that each country was responsible for its own economic policies in accordance with its specific situation and conditions. In this light, during the period under review, the Assembly reaffirmed that entrepreneurship, especially in the context of a fair, competitive economy, supportive government policies, and an equitable international economic environment, contributed to a more efficient world economy and enhanced the internationalisation of trading markets and financial flows to the benefit of all. The Assembly called upon Member States to facilitate, consistent with their national laws, the development of co-operation between domestic and foreign enterprises, especially through contracting, business co-operation and joint ventures, which facilitate market access and the transfer of technology.³⁴ With regard to privatisation and economic restructuring, the Council requested

²⁹ G A resolution 47/187.

³⁰ G A resolution 49/106.

³¹ See *e.g.*, E S C resolution 1992/40.

³² G A resolution 46/202.

³³ G A resolution 41/182 and E S C resolution 1988/74. See *Supplement No. 6*, para. 28, under this Article.

³⁴ G A resolution 45/188.

the Secretary-General to enhance technical co-operation activities to assist all interested countries in attracting foreign investment and transnational corporations to contribute to the implementation of privatisation programmes. It also invited him to explore further, through case-by-case studies of foreign investment, new approaches to the process of privatisation, administrative deregulation and demonopolization of economic activities.³⁵ The Assembly urged the United Nations system to support national efforts to implement privatisation, demonopolization, administrative deregulation and other relevant policies in the context of their economic reforms.³⁶

17. The Organization continued to examine and assess the economic and social situation throughout the world, as well as in specific regions and countries. The goals of Article 55 (a) and (b) were promoted with the assistance of the various agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, mentioned in past *Supplements* and below, and with the co-operation of Member States under Article 56. Moreover, the principal organs continued to adopt decisions regarding co-operation between the United Nations and various regional and international organizations for the purpose of, *inter alia*, promoting economic and social development. For example, the Assembly urged the ECLAC to continue broadening its coordination and mutual support activities within the Latin American Economic system,³⁷ and requested the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue co-operation in their common search for solutions to global problems.³⁸ The Assembly also promoted co-operation between the United Nations and the Caribbean community.³⁹

18. The principal organs also made recommendations to Member States, governments and to the international community generally to promote economic development and social progress by the formulation and implementation of interrelated policy measures to achieve objectives established within the framework of national plans and priorities in the following areas: employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and aging, full participation of youth in the development process and full integration and participation of women in development.⁴⁰ As in the past, the decisions of the principal organs often served to identify specific areas of priority and/or concern in the international economic and social fields. For example, alarmed at the increasingly deteriorating social conditions in most African countries, the Economic and Social Council raised the awareness of the critical situation in the continent, emphasizing that the African social and economic crisis was a development crisis concerning the international community as a whole.⁴¹ The General Assembly again affirmed its concern about the sharp decline in living standards, income and employment levels, health, nutritional and educational standards that had aggravated widespread poverty in Africa.⁴² Another area identified was the need to strengthen international co-operation in combating organized crime.⁴³

19. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council continued to set out the parameters for international action with respect to economic and social issues. In one case, the General Assembly affirmed that the international fight against drug trafficking should not in any way justify the violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the right of all peoples freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development; every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance

³⁵ E S C resolution 1992/36.

³⁶ G A resolution 47/171.

³⁷ G A resolution 46/12.

³⁸ G A resolution 46/13.

³⁹ G A resolution 49/141.

⁴⁰ G A resolution 44/56.

⁴¹ E S C resolution 1989/46.

⁴² G A resolution 44/212.

⁴³ G A resolution 45/123.

with the provisions of the Charter.⁴⁴ In a number of decisions, the principal organs recalled that, under the Charter, all States enjoy sovereign equality and that each State, in accordance with the will of its people, has the right freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems.⁴⁵ In the field of assistance to countries in natural disasters, the Assembly reaffirmed the sovereignty of affected States and their primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within their respective territories, while recalling the principle under the United Nations Charter to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.⁴⁶ The Council emphasized the national sovereignty of all countries in formulating, adopting and implementing their population policies, mindful of their culture, values and traditions, as well as of their social, economic and political conditions.⁴⁷

20. During the period under review, the decisions of the Organization continued to affirm the necessary preconditions for economic and social development. In one instance, the Council stated its conviction that efforts to secure a more supportive economic environment conducive to sustained growth and development were essential.⁴⁸ In another instance, the Assembly reaffirmed that popular participation in all its various forms constituted an important factor in socio-economic development.⁴⁹ In addition instance, the principal organs identified general and specific requisite action for resolving specific problems in international economic relations. In another, the Assembly recognized that a universal, constructive and comprehensive dialogue aimed at revitalizing economic growth and development, in particular the development of developing countries, was essential if effective and cooperative approaches to international economic issues were to be found.⁵⁰

21. In several instances, the decisions of the principal organs affirmed the interdependent nature of economic and social development with other fields, such as economic, social, cultural and political rights.⁵¹ The Economic and Social Council, in one instance, stressed the necessity of using scientific and technological progress as a major aspect of the process of fully implementing fundamental political, economic, social and cultural rights.⁵² The Assembly, for its part, stressed the strong relationship in developing countries between poverty, development and the environment.⁵³ The Assembly made reference to the provisions of Article 55 and the need for international action to strengthen the socio-economic development of Member States as a means of enhancing international peace and security in the context of resolution 47/120 on the Agenda for Peace.

22. The General Assembly continued address the interdependence of certain economic and social issues with political ones. The Assembly continued to address the question of economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries, calling upon developed countries to refrain from exercising political coercion through the application of economic instruments with the purpose of inducing changes in the economic or social systems, as well as in the domestic or foreign policies, of other countries.⁵⁴ The principal organs continued to take decisions regarding Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,⁵⁵ as well as on assistance to the Palestinian people.⁵⁶ With

⁴⁴ G A resolution 46/101.

⁴⁵ See e.g., G A resolution 46/137.

⁴⁶ G A resolution 45/100.

⁴⁷ E S C resolution 1991/93.

⁴⁸ E S C resolution 1989/110.

⁴⁹ G A resolution 44/53.

⁵⁰ G A resolution 44/231.

⁵¹ See e.g., G A resolution 44/130; E S C resolution 1989/113.

⁵² E S C resolution 1989/47.

⁵³ G A resolution 44/212.

⁵⁴ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/215, 46/210.

⁵⁵ See e.g., G A resolutions 46/199 and 47/172; E S C resolutions 1990/53 and 1994/45.

⁵⁶ See e.g., G A resolution 45/184 and E S C resolution 1990/59 and 1993/78.

regard to both of these latter, the principal organs recognized the hindrance to development in the occupied Palestinian territories by the current situation in the Middle East, and expressed opposition to the occupation. Measures recommended with regard to the latter included a call for treatment on a transit basis of Palestinian exports and imports passing through neighbouring ports and points of exit and entry and for granting trade concessions and concrete preferential measures for Palestinian exports on the basis of Palestinian certificates of origin.⁵⁷ At its 1994 session, the Council welcomed the signing of the first implementation agreement of the Declaration of Principles on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area between the Government of Israel and the PLO. Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Territory and the living conditions of the Palestinian people, the Council stressed the importance of the appointment of a Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories and the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the Territories. The Council suggested the convening in 1995 of a United Nations sponsored seminar on Palestinian administrative, managerial and financial needs.⁵⁸ At the same session, the Council adopted a decision with respect to the Middle East peace process.⁵⁹

23. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, at its forty-first session, proclaimed the right to development.⁶⁰ During the period under review, the principal organs continued to take decisions with regard to the right to development. The Assembly reiterated the need for appropriate ways and means, such as an evaluation mechanism, to ensure the promotion, encouragement and reinforcement of the principles contained in the Declaration of the Right to Development: in this regard, the Commission on Human Rights was requested to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration.⁶¹ The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat were requested to continue to coordinate the various activities with regard to implementation of the Declaration.⁶² The Assembly also urged the regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations to convene meetings of governmental experts and representatives, non-governmental and grass-roots organizations for the purpose of seeking agreement on arrangements for the implementation of the Declaration through international co-operation.⁶³ The Commission on Human Rights invited the Secretary-General to organize a global consultation on the realization of the right to development, which would involve experts with relevant experience gained at the national level and representatives of the United Nations system, regional intergovernmental organizations and interested non-governmental organizations. The consultation would focus on the fundamental problems posed by the implementation of the Declaration, the criteria that might be used to identify progress and mechanisms for evaluating and stimulating such progress.⁶⁴ By its resolution 48/12, the General Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, which examined the relationship between democracy, development and human rights.

24. The principal organs examined the machinery and the capacity within the United Nations system in the economic and social and related fields, bearing in mind the role of the United Nations as set out in the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, including Article 55, and the overall objective of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.⁶⁵

⁵⁷ G A resolution 45/184.

⁵⁸ E S C resolution 1994/29

⁵⁹ E S C resolution 1994/44.

⁶⁰ G A resolution 41/128. See *Supplement No. 7*, under this Article, part B, 1a.

⁶¹ G A resolution 47/123.

⁶² G A resolution 45/97.

⁶³ G A resolution 46/123.

⁶⁴ G A resolution 44/62.

⁶⁵ G A resolution 45/264.

Specifically, the Assembly adopted resolutions 45/177, 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, particularly important to the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in these fields. By its resolution 45/177, the Assembly defined the overall objective of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields as the need for more effective and efficient functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations system, as well as increased responsiveness to the needs of enhancing international economic co-operation and promoting the development of the developing countries, taking account of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, and other relevant resolutions. For that purpose, the Assembly decided to reconvene, in a resumed forty-fifth session for one week, for an in-depth consideration and negotiations of proposals for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.⁶⁶ By its resolution 45/264, the Assembly adopted the basic principles and guidelines on restructuring, which included: political will of all States; achievement of greater complementarity between the bodies and organs of the United Nations with the General Assembly, while ensuring the latter's position as a principal organ of the United Nations; preservation of the democratic principles which underpin the decision-making process of the United Nations; transparency and openness in the functioning of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields; efficient and effective use of the financial and human resources of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields; and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of all its relevant resolutions.

25. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/235 containing additional measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the fields of Article 55(a) and (b). The measures, set out in the annex to the resolution, contained a common understanding within the Assembly to guide the process of restructuring of the Council and Assembly's subsidiary bodies in the economic and social fields. Recommendations in this area included restructuring of reporting procedures for subsidiary bodies, and identified subsidiary bodies, including the regional commissions.

26. In other initiatives to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council acknowledged that, with regard to the early identification, analysis and monitoring of world economic developments, the United Nations should aim at improving its analytical and forecasting activities on a coordinated basis. The Council also acknowledged the need to strengthen informational links within the United Nations, improve existing mechanisms for providing socio-economic data available in the United Nations for the use of policy-makers and others, and expand the analysis of options and possible actions in connection with emerging problems in the world economy.⁶⁷ In that vein, the Council agreed on measures for improving this area, including closer interaction by sharing common analytical data-bases and on-line access to modelling environments through use of advanced communication facilities, adjustment of existing modelling frameworks to incorporate the impact of future change, and full utilization of the United Nations University, the World Institute for Development Economics Research and the United Nations research institutes engaged in the study of emerging economic and social developments.⁶⁸

27. With regards to strengthening the Council itself, the General Assembly at its April 1990 reconvened session, took a decision to enable the Council to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter geared toward the following objectives: 1) enhancing the Council's role as a central forum for major economic, social and related issues and policies and its coordinating functions, 2) improving its effectiveness and efficiency in the consideration of and action on the reports of its subsidiary bodies and other relevant reports, 3) ensuring greater complementarity with the work of the General Assembly, 4) avoiding duplication with work of other United Nations bodies, and 5) working toward an integrated approach to policy and programme aspects of the economic and social issues. Under the structure set out

⁶⁶ G A resolution 45/177.

⁶⁷ E S C resolution 1989/84.

⁶⁸ E S C resolution 1990/52.

in Assembly resolution 45/264, a session of the Council would be divided into different parts, or segments: an organizational session, a substantive session that would include a high-level segment, a coordination segment, an operational activities segment and a Committee segment. The organizational session of the Council would be held in early February to determine the annual agenda of the Council and related organizational issues, particularly on the themes to be discussed in the high-level segment. This session would also select themes for the coordination segment. One substantive session of four to five weeks would take place in alternate years in New York and Geneva between May and July, broadly organized, to include a high-level segment, a coordination segment, and a segment devoted to operational activities of the United Nations system. The high-level segment would be devoted to the consideration of one or more major economic and/or social policy themes to be determined at the organizational session. It would include a one-day-policy dialogue and discussion, inviting heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system, on important developments in the world economy and international economic co-operation with a view to building areas of understanding, with recommendations incorporated in its final report.⁶⁹

28. The coordination segment, the Assembly stated, would be devoted to the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields in accordance with Articles 63 and 64 of the Charter, and would be organized around one or more themes selected at the organizational session to focus attention on the activities of the United Nations system in the selected economic and social areas. Recommendations from these discussions would be submitted to the General Assembly and forwarded, as appropriate, to the governing bodies of the agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as to the CPC and the ACC. The segment devoted to operational activities of the United Nations system would focus, in particular, on follow-up of policy recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly and coordination of operational activities on a system-wide basis, taking account of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77. During the Committee segment, the two separate committees of the Council would meet simultaneously to consider and take decisions on the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and other relevant reports on specific economic, social and related issues, including their programme implications.⁷⁰ Assembly resolution 48/162 affirmed these measures, elaborating on a number of them.

29. The Council decided upon a number of measures geared towards implementation of its resolution 1988/77.⁷¹ These measures addressed question of major policy themes and thematic analyses, organization of work, and substantive support. They also included a decision to establish a multiyear work programme identifying major policy themes for in-depth consideration each year.⁷² Thus, beginning in 1991, as one important concrete step in the process of its revitalization, the Council convened special high-level meetings. For example, the Council convened⁷³ a special high-level meeting to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries. The General Assembly invited all Member States and observer States in a position to do so to be represented at the ministerial level, and decided to discuss the outcome at its forty-sixth session.⁷⁴ The Council decided to devote its 1992 high level segment to “Enhancing international co-operation for development: the role of the United Nations system,”⁷⁵ its 1993 high-level segment to “World Summit for Social Development, including the role of

⁶⁹ G A resolution 45/264, annex, III.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

⁷¹ See *Supplement No. 7*, para. 12, under this Article.

⁷² See e.g. E S C resolution 1989/114.

⁷³ E S C resolution 1990/68 and decision 1990/205.

⁷⁴ G A resolution 45/182.

⁷⁵ E S C decision 1992/203.

the United Nations system in promoting social development,⁷⁷⁶ and its 1994 high-level segment on the “Agenda for development.”⁷⁷⁷

30. In a further effort to strengthen the organization, the Assembly adopted resolution 46/232 deciding that restructuring of the Secretariat, as launched by the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer of the organization, was a vital part of the restructuring process. The Assembly also included a mandate in the same resolution with overall aims of restructuring of the Secretariat. The Council took decisions in light of General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 46/235 to strengthen the role of the regional commissions.⁷⁸ In its resolution 1993/61, the Council reaffirmed support for decentralization to achieve more effective distribution of responsibilities between global, regional and national entities in the fields of Article 55.

31. The decisions of the principal organs also served to promote interagency co-operation in specific fields of economic and social development within the United Nations system. In one instance, the General Assembly called for increasing interagency co-operation within the United Nations system as well as coordination of activities in the field of development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy.⁷⁹

32. During the period under review, the General Assembly continued to promote a new international humanitarian order, recognizing with concern the continuing need to further strengthen international responses to growing humanitarian challenges at the international, regional and national levels to promote durable solutions to humanitarian problems.⁸⁰ In addition to the efforts of the Secretary-General to support initiative in this field, the General Assembly and the United Nations system was assisted by the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues in its role in following up the work of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.⁸¹

33. As in the past, the principal organs used as a vehicle to promote the objectives of Article 55(a) and (b) the observance of international days, years, decades and anniversaries. During the period, the Council submitted a set of guidelines on international decades for adoption by the General Assembly that would emphasize subjects of priority concern in the economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian or human rights field and should require long-term action at the international or regional level and at the national level. Action on a specific decade should contribute to the strengthening of international peace and to the development of international co-operation towards the proclaimed objectives of the decade.⁸² Stressing the purpose of the United Nations Charter to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,⁸³ the General Assembly proclaimed 1995 as the United Nations Year for Tolerance. As a means of encouraging Governments to consider the potential of cooperatives for contributing to the solution of economic, social and environmental problems in formulating national development strategies, the General Assembly proclaimed an International Day of Cooperatives in July of 1995.⁸⁴ The General Assembly decided to proclaim a World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought beginning in 1995,⁸⁵ an International Day for Biological Diversity,⁸⁶ and an International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.⁸⁷ For the twentieth anniversary of the

⁷⁶ E S C decision 1993/204.

⁷⁷ E S C decision 1994/201.

⁷⁸ *See e.g.*, E S C resolution 1992/43.

⁷⁹ G A resolution 45/208.

⁸⁰ G A resolution 47/106.

⁸¹ G A resolution 45/101.

⁸² E S C resolution 1989/84.

⁸³ G A resolution 49/213.

⁸⁴ G A resolution 47/90.

⁸⁵ G A resolution 49/115.

⁸⁶ G A resolution 49/119.

⁸⁷ G A resolution 49/114.

Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Economic and Social Council recommended⁸⁸ and the General Assembly adopted⁸⁹ a resolution making recommendations on integrating the Declaration in current work of the Organization.

34. As in the past, the principal organs convened global conferences to discuss problems of economic and social development of international concern. These included such forums as the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁹⁰ and the International Conference on Population and Development.⁹¹ Such conferences often had the mandate to elaborate strategies and measures.⁹² In one instance, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on international migration and development, including aspects regarding objectives and modalities for the convening of a United Nations conference on migration and development.⁹³

35. With regard to standards of living, the Organization continued to take a number of decisions to emphasize the priority of the eradication of poverty.⁹⁴ As in the past, the principal organs addressed the topic of employment as a concomitant although important aspect of overall development. In this light, priority was placed during the period under review on the development of human resources, particularly with regard to women.⁹⁵ The Council reaffirmed the crucial role of human resources in the socio-economic development process and recognized that the development of human resources was an essential pre-condition for development and the ultimate aim of development.⁹⁶ Many decisions of the principal organs stressed the need for education and training as a means to eradicate poverty.⁹⁷ The Assembly called upon the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-ordinate their activities in support of national and regional programmes, priorities and activities in the area of human resources development through, *inter alia*, dialogue on policy, resource allocation and strengthening the database for planning and monitoring, as well as through appropriate, measurable, qualitative and quantitative goals for human resources development.⁹⁸

36. With regard to international educational co-operation, trends in the decisions of the principal organs continued as in the past. The Economic and Social Council invited Governments to give high priority to programmes to promote the participation of women in education.⁹⁹ The Assembly took decisions to promote and strengthen the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for South Africa,¹⁰⁰ the United Nations University,¹⁰¹ the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,¹⁰² and the University for Peace.¹⁰³ The Assembly also took decisions to prepare for the International Literacy Year and called for continuing international efforts to promote literacy,¹⁰⁴ recognizing the lead role of UNESCO.¹⁰⁵ In this regard, the decisions during the period under review attempted to catalyze national efforts to promote literacy, and the Assembly commended those Governments that had launched national

⁸⁸ E S C resolution 1989/48.

⁸⁹ G A resolution 44/57.

⁹⁰ G A resolution 47/189.

⁹¹ E S C resolution 1992/37

⁹² G A resolution 47/189.

⁹³ G A resolution 49/127.

⁹⁴ See e.g., G A resolution 44/212. See *infra*, Analytical Summary, B. 1.d.

⁹⁵ See e.g., G A resolution 45/191.

⁹⁶ E S C resolution 1989/120.

⁹⁷ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/213, 45/191, and 47/199.

⁹⁸ G A resolution 46/143.

⁹⁹ E S C resolution 1989/37.

¹⁰⁰ G A resolution 48/160.

¹⁰¹ See e.g., G A resolution 49/124.

¹⁰² See e.g., G A resolution 45/219.

¹⁰³ See e.g., G A resolution 48/9. See also E S C resolution 1986/6.

¹⁰⁴ G A resolution 44/127.

¹⁰⁵ G A resolution 46/93.

literacy programmes and attained notable progress in meeting the objectives of the Year.¹⁰⁶ The Assembly also addressed the question of women and literacy.¹⁰⁷

37. With regard to international cultural co-operation, as in the past the principal organs took relatively few decisions in this field. Both the Council and the Assembly took decisions to promote the World Decade for Cultural Development and the Plan of Action for the Decade.¹⁰⁸ The principal organs emphasized the importance of taking the cultural dimension of development into account in the elaboration and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.¹⁰⁹ The Assembly invited all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system, when undertaking activities in connection with the Decade, to concentrate efforts on interdisciplinary projects of a regional and interregional scope and to encourage the formation of different types of partnerships for their implementation. The Assembly also invited the above-mentioned entities to find appropriate ways to integrate cultural factors into all endeavors aimed at social and economic development, and to promote intercultural understanding and appreciation.¹¹⁰ Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/65 noted the suggestion made in its First (Economic) Committee that the UNESCO jointly establish an international commission to prepare a report on culture and development. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to co-operate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the latter proceeded in establishing an independent World Commission on Culture and Development, comprising women and men drawn from all regions and eminent in diverse disciplines, to prepare a world report on culture and development and proposals for both urgent and long-term action to meet cultural needs in the context of development.¹¹¹ The Assembly welcomed the establishment of the independent World Commission on Culture and Development.¹¹² The principal organs also took decisions with regard to topics such as the Commemoration of the millennium of the Kyrgyz national epic, *Manas*,¹¹³ the Olympic Ideal¹¹⁴ and the return or restitution of cultural property to countries of origin.¹¹⁵

40. With respect to food production and supply, trends in the decisions of the principal organs during the period under review continued to address and place priority on food and agricultural problems,¹¹⁶ with the co-operation initiatives of the FAO, the World Food Council as the coordinating mechanism in the field of food and related policy matters within the United Nations,¹¹⁷ as well as with the assistance of IFAD. As in the past, decisions continued to stress initiatives such as those promoting increased food production,¹¹⁸ food security,¹¹⁹ strengthening international co-operation in science and technology for increased food production and the transfer of environmentally sound agricultural technology,¹²⁰ and cooperative arrangements to facilitate the enhancement of early warning of food shortages within the framework of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture.¹²¹ The United Nations welcomed renewed international commitment to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty as expressed in the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World and in the Cairo Declaration of the World

¹⁰⁶ G A resolution 46/93.

¹⁰⁷ G A resolution 45/126.

¹⁰⁸ *See e.g.*, G A resolutions 44/238 and 46/157; E S C resolutions 1989/107 and 1991/65.

¹⁰⁹ G A resolution 44/238; E S C resolution 1991/65.

¹¹⁰ G A resolution 49/105.

¹¹¹ G A resolution 46/158.

¹¹² G A resolution 49/105.

¹¹³ G A resolution 49/129; E S C resolution 1994/49.

¹¹⁴ G A resolution 49/29.

¹¹⁵ G A resolutions 46/10 and 48/15.

¹¹⁶ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 45/199, annex, part I, paras. 15, 18, and part III, paras. 70-77, 82, 83, 84 and 86.

¹¹⁷ G A resolution 40/181.

¹¹⁸ *See e.g.*, G A resolutions 47/149 and 49/103.

¹¹⁹ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 47/149; E S C resolution 1991/53.

¹²⁰ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 47/149; E S C. resolution 1991/53.

¹²¹ E S C resolution 1991/53.

Food Council, and promoted the goals of these latter, including the elimination of starvation and death caused by famine; a substantial reduction in malnutrition and mortality among young children; a tangible reduction in chronic hunger; and the elimination of major nutritional deficiency diseases.¹²²

41. In the field of health, the principal organs continued to place considerable priority on prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency system (AIDS). The Council endorsed the establishment of a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS.¹²³ Often, provisions within the decisions addressing this field gave particular emphasis on health for women.¹²⁴ The Assembly adopted a set of Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and the Improvement of Mental Health Care.¹²⁵ With regard to tobacco production and consumption, the Council urged Governments to intensify their commitment and efforts designed to reduce tobacco consumption and the demand for tobacco products, including implementation of comprehensive multisectoral plans at the country level. The Council requested the Secretary-General to establish, under the auspices of the WHO and within existing resources, a focal point among existing institutions of the United Nations system on the subject of multisectoral collaboration on the economic and social aspects of tobacco production and consumption, which would offer practical advice and assistance to Member States, at their request, as to how they could compliment or strengthen comprehensive national tobacco control strategies.¹²⁶ The focal point was established under the UNCTAD.¹²⁷ Also during the period, the principal organs addressed the question of preventive action against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa.¹²⁸

42. The principal organs, primarily the General Assembly, continued to take decisions with regard to housing and human settlements. Much of the emphasis in this area was placed on the development and strengthening of national shelter strategies.¹²⁹ It will be recalled that, by its resolution 43/181, the General Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.¹³⁰ During the period under review, the Assembly continued to promote the Strategy, recommending that all Governments gradually set in place the monitoring system to be proposed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), following the guidelines by the Executive Director.¹³¹ Also during the period, the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996. The Assembly decided on the objectives, which included, in the long term, to arrest the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately create conditions for achieving improvements in the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis – with special attention to the needs and contributions of women and vulnerable social groups – and to adopt a general statement of principles and commitments and formulate a related global programme of action suitable for guiding national and international efforts.¹³² At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly reaffirmed the importance for Habitat II of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as the objectives set out in chapter 7 of Agenda 21,¹³³ and urged the integration of environmental concerns into initiatives in this field: the Assembly urged Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies.¹³⁴

43. As in the past, the principal organs took a considerable number of decisions with respect to the

¹²² E S C resolution 1989/88; G A resolution 45/207 and 47/149.

¹²³ E S C resolution 1994/24. *See infra* under the Analytical survey, section B, 1, e.

¹²⁴ E S C resolution 1989/37.

¹²⁵ G A resolution 46/119.

¹²⁶ E S C resolution 1993/79.

¹²⁷ E S C resolution 1994/47.

¹²⁸ G A resolution 49/135; E S C resolution 1994/34.

¹²⁹ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 48/178.

¹³⁰ *See Supplement No. 6*, under this study, para. R><.

¹³¹ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 44/173

¹³² G A resolution 47/180.

¹³³ G A resolution 49/109

¹³⁴ G A resolution 46/163.

integration of women in the development process and advancement in society. In particular, decisions of the principal organs called for more specific focus on gender aspects within a number of areas: for example, by its resolution 1993/74, the Economic and Social Council called for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to focus on a number of subthemes, including gender implications of science and technology in topics which included the implementation of technological change for employment and skills, health implications, energy technologies, technology education and entry into professions. The Council emphasized that the advancement of women should be an integral part of the economic and social development process within the main global issues, such as gender equality and women's participation in the peace process, in national and international governance and in sustainable development. The Assembly and the Council both promoted the implementation and review of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,¹³⁵ emphasizing, *inter alia*, the need to give urgent attention to redressing socio-economic inequities at the national and international levels as a necessary step towards the full realization of the goals and objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies.¹³⁶ By its resolution 45/129, the Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 recommending that a world conference on women should be held in 1995 and requested that the Commission on the Status of Women act as the preparatory body for the world conference. It requested the Commission to focus the agenda of the world conference in 1995 on the Forward-looking Strategies as well as on the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategies.

44. The Assembly promoted the establishment by States of specific targets to increase the participation of women in professional, management and decision-making positions in their countries.¹³⁷ The Council took decisions to promote the role of women not only in developmental aspects of national decision-making but in political participation as well. In one instance, the Council urged Governments to increase their efforts to make women full partners in national decision-making. It recommended that, in order to accelerate the pace of progress towards the full participation of women in national decision-making, Governments introduce, *inter alia*, the regular compilation and dissemination of gender-specific data on the composition of relevant bodies at various levels of national decision-making, the design of programmes and campaigns to inform women of their legal political rights, the review of educational material with the aim of removing gender bias, the facilitation of research on women's opportunities of exerting influence and on structural and other obstacles to women's participation in decision-making, and the setting of concrete targets for the number of women in bodies whose composition is the responsibility of the Government.¹³⁸ By its resolution 44/77, the Assembly endorsed the convening in 1991 of an interregional consultation on women in public life to increase the level of participation by women in decision-making. In another instance, the Council addressed the role of women in achieving peace, reconciliation, development and social justice in Central America.¹³⁹

45. The decisions of the principal organs addressed problems for a number of categories of women, including elderly women¹⁴⁰ and the integration of older women into development,¹⁴¹ women with disabilities,¹⁴² Palestinian women,¹⁴³ migrant and refugee women,¹⁴⁴ physical violence against women¹⁴⁵

¹³⁵ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/78, 45/129; E S C resolution 1989/32.

¹³⁶ G A resolution 45/129.

¹³⁷ G A resolution 45/129.

¹³⁸ E S C resolution 1990/4.

¹³⁹ E S C resolution 1989/35.

¹⁴⁰ See e.g., G A resolution 44/76; E S C resolution 1989/38.

¹⁴¹ G A resolution 48/162.

¹⁴² See e.g., G A resolution 46/98.

¹⁴³ See e.g., E S C resolution 1991/19.

¹⁴⁴ See e.g., G A resolutions 46/98 and 49/165.

¹⁴⁵ See e.g., E S C resolution 1993/26.

and against detained women specific to their sex,¹⁴⁶ the improvement of educational possibilities of women, particularly with regard to literacy,¹⁴⁷ women in rural areas,¹⁴⁸ traffic in women and girls,¹⁴⁹ women in relation to the questions of the environment, population and sustainable development,¹⁵⁰ and women under apartheid.¹⁵¹ The Assembly requested the Commission to give special attention to women in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, who suffer disproportionately from the effects of the global economic crisis and the heavy external debt burden. The Council also requested the Commission to recommend further measures for the equalization of opportunity and for the integration of the roles and perspective of women, as well as their needs, concerns and aspirations, into the entire development process when considering the priority theme of development.¹⁵² The principal organs promoted the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women,¹⁵³ the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women¹⁵⁴ and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.¹⁵⁵ In addition, the principal organs considered the merger of these latter two bodies.¹⁵⁶ The Assembly also acknowledged the important role non-governmental organizations play in all activities for the advancement of women.¹⁵⁷

2. DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO CO-OPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

46. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to provide policy guidance and coordination with respect to co-operation and technical assistance for development.¹⁵⁸ The decisions of the principal organs, as in the past, set out the overall mandates for economic and technical assistance by the United Nations system, articulating their parameters and general objectives, and reviewing the effectiveness of their implementation. The Assembly affirmed the need to improve the quality and impact of, and to promote an integrated approach in the field of operational activities of the United Nations.¹⁵⁹ Both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed that the fundamental characteristics of operational activities should be, *inter alia*, their universality, their voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, and their flexibility vis-à-vis the needs of developing countries.¹⁶⁰ The Assembly addressed the parameters for operational activities during the period, reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Government of a recipient country for formulating its national development plan and priorities, which constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system.¹⁶¹ In addition, the Assembly recognized the need to reorient operational activities to strengthen and utilize fully national capacities in all aspects of the programme and project cycle. It also stressed that operational activities should focus on the human dimension of development, particularly through education, training and development of human resources, and should emphasize the need to reach the poorest and most

¹⁴⁶ E S C resolution 1990/5.

¹⁴⁷ See e.g., G A resolution 45/126 and E S C resolution 1989/37.

¹⁴⁸ G A resolution 48/109.

¹⁴⁹ See e.g., G A resolution 49/166.

¹⁵⁰ See e.g., G A resolution 45/126; E S C resolution 1993/12.

¹⁵¹ E.g., E S C resolutions 1989/33 and 1993/12.

¹⁵² G A resolutions 48/108 and 49/161.

¹⁵³ See e.g., G A resolutions 45/129 and 49/161.

¹⁵⁴ See e.g., G A resolution 48/105.

¹⁵⁵ See e.g., G A resolutions 46/97 and 48/107.

¹⁵⁶ G A resolution 49/160; E S C resolution

¹⁵⁷ G A resolution 48/108.

¹⁵⁸ For more detailed treatment of questions regarding technical assistance and coordination within the United Nations system, See this Supplement, under Articles 66(2) and 58, respectively.

¹⁵⁹ G A resolution 48/162.

¹⁶⁰ G A resolution 44/211; E S C resolution 1993/7.

¹⁶¹ G A resolution 44/211.

vulnerable sections of societies.¹⁶² Both the Assembly and the Council emphasized the need for decentralized capacity and authority in the United Nations system to the country-level, stressing that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible, available national expertise and indigenous technologies.¹⁶³ The Assembly made recommendations to recipient countries regarding the preparation of national strategies and country strategy notes by those countries in order to strengthen the contribution of outside assistance, and outlined particular responsibilities for recipient countries.¹⁶⁴

47. Pursuant to the implementation of Assembly resolution 47/199, the Council, in its resolution 1994/33, decided that each of its operational activities segments¹⁶⁵ would determine a principal theme or themes primarily for consideration at the high-level meeting, which would be guided by Assembly resolution 48/162. These themes should be agreed on by the Council at its substantive session for consideration at the subsequent substantive session, without excluding consideration of other themes to be decided on by the Council, at the latest, at its organizational session. In the same resolution, the Council also decided to devote up to one day of the operational activities segment to an informal exchange of views, on issues to be agreed on at the organizational session, with a limited number of representatives/country directors at the field level of the United Nations development funds and programmes, as well as of the specialized agencies. The Assembly, by its resolution 48/162, further specified the functions of the operational activities segment.¹⁶⁶

48. The Assembly established mandates to be applied by the United Nations system to harmonize the application of various aspects of operational activities, such as agreement on a common interpretation of national execution and agreement of a common interpretation of the programme approach, including an effective methodology for evaluation.¹⁶⁷

49. As in the past, the principal organs took decisions with regard to a number of specific areas of co-operation in the field of economic and/or technical assistance in such fields as crime prevention and criminal justice,¹⁶⁸ foreign direct investment¹⁶⁹ and the eradication of poverty.¹⁷⁰ The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to provide technical assistance with economies in transition.¹⁷¹

50. One area of priority for operational activities identified during the period was technical co-operation among developing countries.¹⁷² As in the past, the principal organs continued to take measures to promote co-operation among developing countries, recognizing the role and importance of technical co-operation among developing countries in their social and economic development and in the reinforcement and final achievement of the individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries.¹⁷³ The General Assembly reaffirmed the role and importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in their socio-economic development.¹⁷⁴ The Council reaffirmed the continued validity and importance of all the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries¹⁷⁵ in promoting technical co-

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ G A resolution 47/199; E S C resolution 1993/7.

¹⁶⁴ G A resolution 47/199.

¹⁶⁵ *See supra*, para. 28.

¹⁶⁶ G A resolution 48/162, annex, part III, para. 16.

¹⁶⁷ G A resolution 47/199.

¹⁶⁸ *See e.g.*, E S C resolution 1994/22.

¹⁶⁹ *See e.g.*, E S C 1993/49.

¹⁷⁰ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 48/184.

¹⁷¹ G A resolution 48/181.

¹⁷² G A resolution 48/172.

¹⁷³ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 44/222.

¹⁷⁴ G A resolution 44/222.

¹⁷⁵ *See* G A resolution 33/134.

operation among developing countries. It further reaffirmed that all relevant organizations of the United Nations system should play a prominent role as promoters and catalysts of technical co-operation among developing countries.¹⁷⁶ The Council made recommendations to countries, both developed and developing, and to the United Nations system with regard to particular areas for technical co-operation among developing countries.¹⁷⁷

51. Also during the period, the General Assembly addressed the question of South-South co-operation. By its resolution 45/195, the Assembly, taking note with appreciation of the report entitled, “The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission,” requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council, to convene, during the second regular session of 1991 of the Council, a meeting devoted to an informal exchange of views on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report. At its forty-sixth session, the Assembly invited several bodies of the United Nations system to support the distribution of the report and to support the developing countries in implementing the relevant recommendations contained therein to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.¹⁷⁸ At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly decided to request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of an intergovernmental meeting of experts to convene in 1995, to submit a report with an overview and analysis of South-South co-operation, keeping in view the proposal from the eighteenth annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 for the United Nations to consider convening an international conference on South-South co-operation in 1996.¹⁷⁹

52. Both the Assembly and the Council took decisions touching upon regional economic integration in developing countries.¹⁸⁰ Both the Assembly¹⁸¹ and the Council¹⁸² stated that regional economic integration was important in expanding trade and investment, particularly in developing countries, and that integration had the potential to strengthen global social and economic development. The principal organs took decisions to strengthen technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture,¹⁸³ as well as international co-operation on the environment.¹⁸⁴

3. DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

53. Trends in the area of financing economic development continued as in previous *Supplements*. During the period under review, the Organization continued to place considerable emphasis on the question of financing economic development, appealing to States and to the international community in general to contribute financial resources towards development and towards United Nations development initiatives.¹⁸⁵ The General Assembly also continued to invite the international community to adopt specific measures designed to increase financial flows to developing countries, including official development assistance.¹⁸⁶ By its resolution 46/205, the Assembly decided to consider at its forty-seventh session the issue of the convening of an international conference on the financing of development. By its resolution 47/181, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, a report on an agenda for development, taking fully into consideration the objectives

¹⁷⁶ E S C resolution 1992/41.

¹⁷⁷ E S C resolution 1992/41.

¹⁷⁸ G A resolution 46/155.

¹⁷⁹ G A resolution 49/96.

¹⁸⁰ See e.g., E S C resolution 1991/76.

¹⁸¹ G A resolution 46/145.

¹⁸² E S C resolution 1992/43.

¹⁸³ G A resolution 43/190.

¹⁸⁴ E S C resolution 1988/69.

¹⁸⁵ See e.g., G A resolution 49/93.

¹⁸⁶ See e.g., G A resolution 44/212.

and agreements on development adopted by the Assembly, containing an analysis of and recommendations on ways to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in the promotion of international co-operation for development, within the framework and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the articles of agreement of the Bretton Woods institutions. The Assembly requested that the report include, *inter alia*, a comprehensive annotated list of substantive themes and areas to be addressed by the United Nations in the agenda, as well as his views on priorities among them, for the consideration of Member States. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly, under the item “international conference for the financing of development,” decided to continue to explore the issue of the financing of development and its potential funding sources, in close consultation and co-operation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, a report on the situation of all potential sources of financing for development, including sources of new and additional financing for development, in order to consider the issue of the convening of a conference on the financing of development.¹⁸⁷

54. With regard to the international monetary situation, during the period under review, the General Assembly put considerable emphasis on the resolution of the external debt crisis and on furthering international economic co-operation in that vein. The Secretary-General had a supporting role in promoting understanding among debtor and creditor-countries and multilateral financial institutions, with a view to contributing to a solution to the problem.¹⁸⁸ As in the past, the decisions of the Assembly served to frame the problem of debt in developing countries and its interrelation with other aspects of development such as trade,¹⁸⁹ offering general recommendations regarding necessary action by the international community in addressing the problem. For example, the Assembly recognized the need of debtor developing countries for a supportive international economic environment as regards, *inter alia*, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access and trade practices, and stressed the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which would result in the liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries.¹⁹⁰ It recognized the urgent need to continue to provide a social safety net to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, particularly low-income groups, in order to ensure social and political stability. It further emphasized the importance for developing countries of continuing their efforts to promote a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment, thereby promoting growth and sustainable development.¹⁹¹ Toward the end of the period under review, the Assembly welcomed the initiatives taken, such as write-offs by certain donors of a significant part of bilateral official debt of least-developed countries and the conclusion of agreements on commercial bank debt, debt-service reduction, to resolve the problem.¹⁹² Nevertheless, the Assembly expressed its concern at the continuing debt and debt service problems of some developing countries, and called upon donor countries, multilateral financial institutions, private creditors and commercial banks to continue to consider new measures and initiatives and expand the application of existing ones in this area.¹⁹³ In addition, during the period under review, the Assembly had on its agenda but continued to defer consideration of a draft decision on the establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development.¹⁹⁴

¹⁸⁷ G A resolution 48/187. See also G A decisions 46/438, 47/436, and 47/442.

¹⁸⁸ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/205 and 45/214.

¹⁸⁹ G A resolution 44/205.

¹⁹⁰ G A resolution 46/148.

¹⁹¹ G A resolution 48/182.

¹⁹² See e.g., 47/198 and 48/182.

¹⁹³ See G A resolution 49/94.

¹⁹⁴ G A decisions 44/445, 45/447, 46/433.

4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND NATIONAL CAPACITIES

a. *Questions relating to administrative, fiscal, legislative and statistical matters*

55. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to take decisions concerning the strengthening of national administrative, fiscal, legislative and statistical capacities in developing countries. The General Assembly, recognizing the importance of efficient and competent public administration and affirming that States have the sovereign right and responsibility to decide on their public administration, acknowledged the importance of the activities in the framework of the United Nations programme in public administration and finance for enhancing efficiency of public administration, particularly in developing countries as well as, during this review period, countries with economies in transition.¹⁹⁵ At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly, emphasizing the importance of international co-operation in supporting the national efforts of developing countries in capacity-building in public administration for development, took note of the Tangier Declaration and decided to resume in March-April 1996 its fiftieth session in order to examine the question of public administration and development, exchange experiences, review the activities of the United Nations in this field, and make recommendations, as appropriate. The Assembly requested the Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance to contribute, through the Economic and Social Council, to the work of the resumed session, based on the experience gained in assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in capacity-building in public administration for development.¹⁹⁶

56. The shift in this area came with regard to promoting a complementary role between the public and private sectors in sustained economic growth and development, both by strengthening countries public sector and private sector particularly with regard to entrepreneurship. The General Assembly supported the activities undertaken by the United Nations system in supporting national efforts aimed at entrepreneurship. The Assembly also recognized the importance of effective and accountable governance in all countries in establishing or improving conditions favourable to private initiative.¹⁹⁷ In the field of statistics, the principal organs, *inter alia*, promoted the development of indicators for patterns of consumption and related socio-economic indicators, stressing that the development of indicators based on the areas identified in General Assembly resolution 40/179 and tailored to the fundamental economic and socio-cultural needs of the population in the fields identified by the General Assembly would help orient national development and support international co-operation by helping Governments to formulate and follow policies better geared to the well-being of the population.¹⁹⁸ Noting the progress made in producing development indicators, the Council requested the Statistical Office of the Secretariat, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the World Bank, and other bodies such as UNICEF, WHO, and UNESCO to continue their work. The Council also examined the question of an international conference of high-level experts, open to the participation of the members of the Statistical Commission, to examine methodological questions and conceptual aspects of the qualitative indicators of development and of consolidating the various research projects and studies currently under way.¹⁹⁹

b. *Decisions with regard to population policies, analyses and programmes*

57. The principal organs continued to take decisions in the field of population, in its supportive role of the

¹⁹⁵ G A resolution 49/136.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ G A resolution 45/188.

¹⁹⁸ G A resolution 44/234 and E S C 1989/4.

¹⁹⁹ E S C resolution 1989/4.

United Nations system towards the attainment of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The decisions largely dealt with the monitoring of world population trends and policies.²⁰⁰ The principal organs reaffirmed the principles and objectives of the Bucharest World Population Plan of Action, adopted at the United Nations World Population Conference in 1974, in turn affirmed and expanded at the International Conference on Population in 1984.²⁰¹ The principal organs continued to use international conferences during the period as vehicles to support efforts in this field: the Council decided on the convening, mandate and preparatory process of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.²⁰² The Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action of the International Conference.²⁰³ In this light, the decisions of the principal organs emphasized the need to increase the level of awareness of population issues on the international agenda²⁰⁴ and integrate population analyses and activities into other important areas of sustainable development.²⁰⁵ At its 1989 session, the Council reaffirmed the close relationship between population and social and economic development, and decided that special attention would be accorded, in the activities of the United Nations system, to the population situation of least-developed countries.²⁰⁶ The Council urged all States, in formulating the International Development Strategy, to give full consideration to the interrelationships between population factors, social, economic, cultural and political development and protection of the environment.²⁰⁷ During the period, the Council also requested the United Nations system to give priority to population problems and needs in Africa.²⁰⁸

58. As in the past, the Secretary-General was requested, *inter alia*, to continue to give high priority to the monitoring of world population trends and policies, to continue work on, *inter alia*, biennial revisions of estimates and projections of national, urban, rural and city populations, including demographic indicators and age structure, studies on the interrelationships between population and development; on the interrelationship between the status and role of women and population; comparative analysis of population policies; on family formation reproductive behaviour and family planning and also on their demographic impact, on changes in population distribution, including internal migration, urbanization and displaced persons. The Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate population information and further strengthening of the Population Information Network at the national, regional and global levels; and support the provision of technical cooperation support in response to requests from developing countries and economies in transition.²⁰⁹ By resolution 1985/3, the Council urged all Governments, when formulating their social and economic policies and programmes, to take fully into account the existing and anticipated demographic structures of their populations, and focus their attention on their relation to a number of factors identified in that resolution.

c. Decisions with regard to science and technology

59. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to take decisions to promote and catalyze capacity-building in science and technology for development as one of the priority issues on the agenda of the United Nations. The General Assembly identified science and technology as one of the

²⁰⁰ See e.g., E S C resolutions 1989/89 and 1989/93.

²⁰¹ G A resolution 49/128; E S C resolution 1989/92.

²⁰² G A resolution 47/176; E S C resolution 1992/37. See G A 48/186 and E S C resolutions 1989/91, 1991/93, 1993/4 and 1993/76.

²⁰³ G A resolution 49/128.

²⁰⁴ G A resolution 47/176.

²⁰⁵ See e.g., G A resolution 46/167

²⁰⁶ E S C resolution 1989/89.

²⁰⁷ G A resolution 45/216; E S C resolution 1989/89.

²⁰⁸ E S C resolution 1989/94.

²⁰⁹ E S C resolution 1984/2.

major components in the deliberations of its special session in 1990.²¹⁰ It called upon organizations of the United Nations system, national efforts and international development cooperation generally to devote increased attention to national capacity-building in this field to enable developing countries to take effective measures to build more sustainable institutions, strengthen human resource capacities, and develop and adapt to technology.²¹¹ The Assembly also stressed international co-operation generally in these fields, recommending that efforts to foster endogenous capacity-building must also be oriented to demand-driven priorities to support the efforts of developing countries and should give particular attention to management of technology to cope with technological change and promote innovation.²¹² In addition, it promoted co-operation among developing countries in this field.²¹³ The Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development and the Secretary-General to pay increasing attention to the effects of science and technology on the process of social welfare and development.²¹⁴

60. The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, were transformed into a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to generate policy options and recommendations.²¹⁵ The Council directed the focus of the Commission's work during the period. It decided on the thematic content focus for the Commission for the inter-sessional period 1993-1995, and for its work generally, including issues of technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations, the gender implications of science and technology for developing countries, the contribution of technologies to industrialization in developing countries, and information technologies and their role in the field of science and technology.²¹⁶ The Council formed an *ad hoc* panel of experts from the members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to study in depth the various issues related to the substantive theme, so as to formulate recommendations for consideration by the Commission. The Council promoted inter-sessional *ad hoc* panels/workshops on specific issues of science and technology for development within the framework of General Assembly resolutions 34/218 and 41/183.

61. During the period under review, the Council began to address the issue of science and technology under the title "Science and technology for sustainable development." The Council decided that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should place particular emphasis on policy issues and options related to the development, transfer and utilization of technologies that promote sustainable development objectives, taking into account the provisions of Agenda 21 concerning science and technology. The Council called upon the Commission on Sustainable Development to interact closely with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.²¹⁷

62. During the period, the principal organs also took decisions with respect to the field of informatics,²¹⁸ contribution of technologies to industrialization of developing countries and the strengthening of regional and global integration processes,²¹⁹ human rights and scientific and technological progress,²²⁰ and scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity for civilian use and sustainable development.²²¹

²¹⁰ G A resolution 44/14 A.

²¹¹ G A resolution 44/14 A and B.

²¹² G A resolution 46/165

²¹³ G A resolution 48/179.

²¹⁴ G A resolution 44/54.

²¹⁵ E S C resolution 1993/

²¹⁶ E S C resolution 1993/74.

²¹⁷ E S C resolution 1993/72.

²¹⁸ E S C 1991/70.

²¹⁹ E S C resolution 1993/70.

²²⁰ G A resolution 46/126.

²²¹ E S C resolution 1993/70.

d. Industrial Development

63. During the period under review, industrial development, particularly in the developing countries, continued to form a priority for the work of the organization, although the principal organs dedicated relatively few decisions to the subject. The Assembly continued to set out an overall mandate in industrial development co-operation, reaffirming the central coordinating role of UNIDO within the United Nations system in this field.²²² The principal organs continued to take decisions to proclaim and promote a programme for the second industrial development decade for Africa during 1991-2000.

e. Decisions regarding transport and communications

64. During the period under review, the principal organs continued the same approach regarding questions of transport and communications. The Council continued to take decisions with regard to transport and communications for the second phase of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994,²²³ and launched the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.²²⁴ The Assembly continued to address the specific needs of land-locked developing countries. In that regard the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene in 1995 a meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries, representatives of donor countries and financial/development institutions to review progress in the development of transit systems, on the basis of an evaluation of the systems in those countries by the Secretary-General of the UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Administrator of UNDP, and to recommend further action, including the elaboration of programmes for further improvement of those transit systems.²²⁵

65. During the period under review, the Assembly addressed the need for assistance to newly independent and developing states in Central Asia, recognizing the development efforts of these countries seeking to enter world markets was impeded by a lack of territorial access to the sea.²²⁶

5. DECISIONS REGARDING RATIONAL USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

a. Natural Resources

66. With regard to the use of natural resources, trends in the work of the principal organs continued similarly to those described in past *Supplements*.²²⁷ During the period under review, the General Assembly, under the rubric of revitalization and restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, amended the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources, retaining its mandate pertaining to mineral and water resources and adding the mandate pertaining to energy resources formerly under the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. This latter Committee, in turn was renamed, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, taking on the aforesaid mandate as well as the mandate given under its former name.²²⁸ As in the past, the Economic and Social Council continued to address issues regarding mineral resources.²²⁹

67. In light of the above, with regard to energy resources, the principal organs took decisions to intensify

²²² See e.g., G A resolutions 1989/115 and 1993/65.

²²³ E S C resolution 1991/75.

²²⁴ E S C resolution 1991/83 and decision 1992/294.

²²⁵ G A resolution 48/169.

²²⁶ G A resolutions 48/170 and 49/102.

²²⁷ See e.g., E S C resolutions 1989/8, 1989/9, 1989/10, 1989/11, 1989/12, 1991/89, 1991/90 and 1991/91.

²²⁸ G A resolution 46/235.

²²⁹ See e.g., E S C resolution 1989/5 and 1991/87

the efforts of the United Nations to promote the international exchange of experience and knowledge and the flow of efficient technologies for use in the exploration and exploitation of energy resources.²³⁰ The Assembly reaffirmed the importance and validity of the principles and objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the urgent need to promote a higher degree of independent and environmentally sustainable new and renewable sources of energy for all countries.²³¹ The principal organs promoted financing, investment, technology and training to accelerate energy exploration and development,²³² encouraged the elaboration of ways and means of mobilizing the international community to increase efforts for measures to accelerate energy exploration and development,²³³ and promoted an international exchange of experience and knowledge in this field.²³⁴ The Secretary-General, *inter alia*, undertook analytical work on energy exploration and development trends in the developing countries, as well as an outline of a programme of action for the acceleration of energy exploration and development.²³⁵

b. *Protection and preservation of the human environment*

72. In the field of protection of the human environment, the Assembly reaffirmed that, owing to its universal character, the United Nations, through the General Assembly, was the appropriate forum for concerted political action on global environmental problems.²³⁶

73. Decisions in this field generally identified issues and problems with regard to environment and development.²³⁷ The principal organs also set out the principal objectives for environment and development policies, taking into consideration the direct interrelationship between them.²³⁸ Some recommendations were generally prescriptive in nature: in one instance, the Assembly stressed that sustainable and environmentally-sound development required changes in the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption, particularly in the industrialized countries, and the development of environmentally-sound technologies.²³⁹ During the period under review, the principal organs continued to promote the implementation and elaboration of framework and consensus instruments seminal to international co-operation and national capacity building for the protection of the human environment. Early in the period, the Assembly continued to promote the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond²⁴⁰ as a broad framework to guide national action and international co-operation on policies and programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development in all countries.²⁴¹ By its resolution 44/228, the General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (hereinafter “UNCED”) in 1992 to elaborate strategies and measures to halt the adverse effects of environmental degradation in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries. The Assembly stressed the fundamental relationship between environment and development and reiterated the need to integrate and keep the balance between both dimensions during the entire preparatory process and during the Conference.²⁴² At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the UNCED, endorsing the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (hereinafter “Rio

²³⁰ See E S C resolution 1989/6.

²³¹ G A resolution 45/208.

²³² See e.g., G A resolution 45/209.

²³³ E S C resolution 1992/56.

²³⁴ E S C resolution 1991/86.

²³⁵ G A resolution 45/209.

²³⁶ G A resolution 44/229.

²³⁷ See e.g., G A resolution 44/225.

²³⁸ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/227 and 47/191.

²³⁹ G A resolution 44/229.

²⁴⁰ See G A resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.

²⁴¹ G A resolution 44/227.

²⁴² G A resolution 45/211.

Declaration”), Agenda 21, and the Non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, as adopted by the Conference.²⁴³

74. The General Assembly took decisions with regard to the existing institutional machinery in this field, endorsing the work of UNEP and reaffirming the mandate of the Programme as defined in resolution 2997 (XXVII). The Assembly concurred with the Governing Council of UNEP that the Programme should play a more vigorous role as a clearing-house, supporting developing countries upon their request to establish their institutions and professional capacities to integrate environmental considerations into development planning, to formulate and initiate programmes and activities for dealing with their most serious environmental problems, and to formulate and participate in action plans for the common management of eco-systems and critical environmental problems at the national, regional and global levels.²⁴⁴ The Council took measures to strengthen the role of the regional commissions in the follow-up and implementation of the decisions adopted by the UNCED. The Assembly also decided to convene not later than 1997 a special session for an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21.²⁴⁵

75. With regard to new institutional machinery, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations on international institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, particularly those on the establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development. The Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1993, to set up a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission of the Council, in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations, in order to ensure effective follow-up to the Conference, as well as to enhance international co-operation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues. The Commission was given the mandate to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels, fully guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all other aspects of the Conference, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries.²⁴⁶

76. With regard to its terms of reference, the Commission would have the following functions, as agreed in paragraphs 38.13, 33.13 and 33.21 of Agenda 21: (a) To monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system through analysis and evaluation of reports from all relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions of the United Nations system dealing with various issues of environment and development, including those related to finance; (b) To consider information provided by Governments, for example, in the form of periodic communications or national reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant; (c) To review the progress in the implementation of the commitments set forth in Agenda 21, including those related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology; (d) To review and monitor regularly progress towards the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for official development assistance; (e) To review on a regular basis the adequacy of funding and mechanisms, including efforts to reach the objectives agreed in chapter 33 of Agenda 21, including targets where applicable; (f) To receive and analyze relevant input from competent non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and the private sector, in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21; (g) To enhance the dialogue, within the framework of the United Nations, with non-governmental organizations and the independent sector, as well as other entities outside

²⁴³ G A resolution 47/190.

²⁴⁴ G A resolution 44/229.

²⁴⁵ E S C resolution 1992/43.

²⁴⁶ G A resolution 47/191.

the United Nations system; (h) To consider, where appropriate, information regarding the progress made in the implementation of environmental conventions, which could be made available by the relevant conferences of parties; (i) To provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21, and; (j) To consider, at an appropriate time, the results of the review to be conducted expeditiously by the Secretary-General of all recommendations of the Conference for capacity-building programmes, information networks, task forces and other mechanisms to support the integration of environment and development at regional and subregional levels.²⁴⁷

77. The General Assembly also recommended that the Commission: (a) Promote the incorporation of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21; (b) Promote the incorporation of the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests 4/ in the implementation of Agenda 21, in particular in the context of the review of the implementation of chapter 11 thereof, and; (c) Keep under review the implementation of Agenda 21, and make recommendations on the need for new cooperative arrangements related to sustainable development to the Economic and Social Council and, through it, to the General Assembly. The Assembly decided that the Commission, in the fulfilment of its functions, would also monitor progress in promoting, facilitating and financing, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21, and consider issues related to the provision of financial resources from all available funding sources and mechanisms, as contained in paragraphs 33.13 to 33.16 of Agenda 21. In addition to provisions as to membership of Member States, the Assembly further recommended the Commission to provide for the assistance, advice and active participation of representatives of various parts of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in the work of the commission within their respective areas of expertise, as well as to provide for non-governmental organizations to participate effectively in its work.²⁴⁸ By its resolution 1993/207, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish the Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission of the Council along the lines mandated by General Assembly resolution 47/191.

78. The decisions taken by the UNCED and the subsequent follow-up by the principal organs of the United Nations served to increase the importance of environmental protection as well as expand the concept of sustainable development further into the economic and social fields addressed by the organization. The Assembly took decisions with regard to the dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration²⁴⁹ and to the strengthening of international co-operation in the monitoring of global environmental problems.²⁵⁰ In addition, the principle organs used international days to a good extent as a vehicle to promote sustainable development, in one instance declaring 22 March of each year as the World Day for Water.²⁵¹ Integration of relevant provisions of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 were recommended for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa 1991-2000²⁵² as well as for programmes for industrial development co-operation generally.²⁵³ In the field of trade, the Assembly emphasized that, in line with Agenda 21, sustainable development of the commodity sector may require, *inter alia*, the reflection of environmental and resource costs in prices, improvements in the market access

²⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁹ G A resolution 49/113.

²⁵⁰ G A resolution 48/192.

²⁵¹ G A resolution 47/193.

²⁵² E S C resolution 1992/44.

²⁵³ G A resolution 47/153,

and competitiveness of natural products from developing countries, and improvements in developing countries' access to international financial and technical support.²⁵⁴ At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly invited the Governing Council of UNDP, taking into account national policies, priorities and plans of recipient countries, to give due consideration to the adoption of concrete programmes and measures to implement Agenda 21 recommendations on capacity-building through, *inter alia*, the "Capacity 21" initiative launched by the Administrator of UNDP.²⁵⁵ Also at its forty-seventh session, the Assembly welcomed the proposal of the High Commissioner for Refugees to appoint an environment coordinator responsible for developing guidelines and taking other measures for incorporating environmental considerations into the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, especially in the least developed countries, in view of the impact on the environment of the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner.²⁵⁶ At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly invited UNDP to continue to carry out its mandate as the the lead agency in organizing the efforts of the United Nations system towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, as set forth in Agenda 21.²⁵⁷

79. During the period under review, the principal organs took decisions with regard to protection of the Ozone Layer.²⁵⁸ In one instance, the Assembly proclaimed 16 September as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.²⁵⁹ The principal organs took decisions with regard to protection of global climate, as well as the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas.²⁶⁰ In this regard, the Assembly urged governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions to collaborate in efforts to prepare a framework convention on climate change and associated protocols,²⁶¹ and decided to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by UNEP and WMO for the preparation by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention containing appropriate commitments.²⁶² The General Assembly welcomed the adoption, in May 1992, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and its signing by a large number of States.²⁶³ The Assembly also decided to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados in 1994.²⁶⁴ At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Conference and endorsed the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Conference.²⁶⁵ The Assembly also took decisions with regard to biological diversity, welcoming the early entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties²⁶⁶ and proclaiming the date of the entry into force for the annual observance of an International Day for Biological Diversity.²⁶⁷

80. In addition, during the period under review, the Assembly took decisions with regard to water and marine resources, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,²⁶⁸ water

²⁵⁴ G A resolution 47/185.

²⁵⁵ G A resolution 47/194.

²⁵⁶ G A resolution 47/105.

²⁵⁷ G A resolution 49/122.

²⁵⁸ *See e.g.*, E S C decision 1989/177.

²⁵⁹ G A resolution 49/114.

²⁶⁰ *See e.g.*, G A resolutions 44/206 and 46/169.

²⁶¹ G A resolution 44/207.

²⁶² G A resolution 45/212.S

²⁶³ G A resolution 47/195. *See also* G A resolution 49/120 welcoming the entry into force of the Framework Convention.

²⁶⁴ G A resolution 48/193.

²⁶⁵ G A resolution 49/122.

²⁶⁶ G A resolution 49/117.

²⁶⁷ G A resolution 49/119.

²⁶⁸ G A resolution 45/181.

resources and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,²⁶⁹ large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources,²⁷⁰ the Law of the Sea²⁷¹ and the convening of United Nations conferences on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.²⁷² Also in this regard, the Assembly, recognizing that freshwater resources were scarce commodities in a growing number of countries and that there was a need to increase the food production in developing countries, invited Governments, international organizations and scientific/technical organizations to promote sustainable water use for food production and rural development by improving the efficiency of current water use for irrigation in developing countries. The Assembly requested the relevant regional and international organizations to assist the cooperative efforts of developing countries in the area of conservation, sustainable use and integrated management of water.²⁷³ In respect of the problem of desertification, the principal organs continued to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action to Combat Desertification²⁷⁴ and the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification of IFAD.²⁷⁵ The principal organs in addition addressed the problem of combating desertification-related problems in South Asia²⁷⁶ and effects of desertification and drought on food and agriculture.²⁷⁷ By its resolution 49/115, the Assembly decided to proclaim a World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to be celebrated annually.

81. Also during the period, the Assembly decided to establish, under its auspices, an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.²⁷⁸ By its resolution 49/234, the Assembly welcomed the adoption of such a Convention, and decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would continue to function under specific terms of reference.

82. During the period under review, the principal organs addressed in addition the following areas of environmental protection: traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, and protection against products harmful to health and the environment,²⁷⁹ the fight against the screw-worm infestation,²⁸⁰ the question of declaring 1998 international year of the ocean,²⁸¹ environment and international trade,²⁸² international co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergencies²⁸³ and the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme, a national project to enhance collective awareness of individuals throughout the world concerning the environment.²⁸⁴ The Assembly reaffirmed that, in accordance with the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, men and women have the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and that they bear a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations.²⁸⁵ The decisions of the principal organs integrated environmental concerns with other

²⁶⁹ See e.g., E S C resolutions 1989/7 and 1991/85.

²⁷⁰ See e.g., G A resolution 46/215.

²⁷¹ G A resolution 48/28.

²⁷² See G A resolution 47/192 and 48/194.

²⁷³ G A resolution 49/103.

²⁷⁴ See e.g., G A resolution 44/172 and E S C resolution 1989/102.

²⁷⁵ See e.g., E S C resolutions 1991/95 and 1992/31.

²⁷⁶ E S C resolutions 1991/97 and 1992/55.

²⁷⁷ G A resolution 49/103.

²⁷⁸ G A resolution 47/188. See also G A resolution 48/191.

²⁷⁹ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/226, 46/19; E S C resolution 1991/57.

²⁸⁰ E S C resolution 1990/61.

²⁸¹ E S C resolution 1994/48.

²⁸² G A resolution 45/210.

²⁸³ G A resolutions 44/224, 46/217.

²⁸⁴ G A resolution 49/112.

²⁸⁵ G A resolution 45/94.

problems such as food²⁸⁶ and trade.²⁸⁷

6. DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

83. During the period, trends in the decisions of the principal organs continued largely as in previous *Supplements*. At its eighteenth special session, the Assembly decided, in which it was stated, *inter alia*, that it would be essential to stem the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries and to reactivate their growth and development through comprehensive national action and international support measures.²⁸⁸ By its resolution 42/177, the General Assembly had decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. By its resolution 45/206, the Assembly, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the Conference, endorsed the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s adopted by the Conference, and reaffirmed the basic principles outlined in the Programme of Action as the basis for action by the least developed countries and their development partners. In the same resolution, the Assembly made recommendations regarding review of implementation for the Programme of Action at the international and country-levels, with UNCTAD continuing to serve as the focal point for review and appraisal of the implementation and follow-up at the global level, the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the UNCTAD and the Trade and Development Board undertaking regular review and appraisals of the Plan, and mechanisms such as United Nations Development Programme round tables and World Bank consultative groups constituting the backbone of the country review process. In addition, the Assembly decided to strengthen the UNCTAD Special Programme for the Least Developed Countries and to provide that Programme with sufficient resources to enable UNCTAD to discharge effectively its mandate concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action. Throughout the period, the principal organs took decisions in regard of implementation, regularly calling upon all Governments, international and multinational organisations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organisations and programmes of the United Nations system and all other organisations concerned to take concrete measures to implement fully the Programme of Action.²⁸⁹

84. The Assembly recommended that all least developed countries should continue to enhance the implementation of national policies and measures in line with the Programme of Action, including through macroeconomic policies conducive to long-term, sustained growth and sustainable development, the promotion of individual initiative and broad-based popular participation in the development process, the enhancement of human and institutional capacities and the expansion and modernization of the economic base. The Assembly also recommended that development partners of least developed countries should effectively and expeditiously implement the commitments undertaken or the measures proposed in the Programme of Action in all areas of international support, including official development assistance, debt relief and external trade.²⁹⁰ It also emphasized the importance of economic and technical co-operation between the least developed countries and other developing countries, and highly recommended mechanisms of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries to strengthen the development efforts of the least developed countries.²⁹¹

85. The principal organs also continued to consider the identification of the least developed countries, and to take decisions regarding special assistance²⁹² for certain of these. With regard to the inclusion of

²⁸⁶ E S C resolution 1991/53.

²⁸⁷ G A resolution 49/104.

²⁸⁸ G A resolution S-18/3.

²⁸⁹ See e.g., G A resolutions 46/156, 47/173 and 48/171.

²⁹⁰ G A resolution 47/173.

²⁹¹ G A resolution 45/206.

²⁹² See e.g., G A resolutions 46/171 and 49/21 D and F.

particular countries in the list of least developed countries, during the period, the Council submitted the report of the Committee for Development Planning on the list of least developed countries for further consideration and approval by the General Assembly, taking into account the views of the Council.²⁹³ The Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee.²⁹⁴ In one instance, the Assembly requested the Committee for Development Planning to consider the question of the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries, to report on its findings to the Economic and Social Council and to the Assembly. At the same time, the Assembly decided to give Namibia special consideration in support of its economic and social development, in accordance with the resolution on economic assistance and least developed country status for Namibia adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.²⁹⁵ With regard to the elaboration of criteria for identifying the least developed countries, the Assembly noted with appreciation the new criteria and the graduation rules recommended by the Committee for Development Planning, and requested the Committee to consider further possible improvements in the criteria and their applications.²⁹⁶ It further requested the Committee for Development Planning to undertake every three years a general review of the list of low-income countries, with a view to identifying which of those countries should qualify for inclusion in, or should be graduated from, the list of least developed countries, and to present this review to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. The Assembly would act on the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning for the inclusion of a country in the list of least developed countries, provided the country concerned has signified its consent. The Assembly moreover took decisions regarding the graduation of a country from the list, deciding that the graduation of a country would be completed following a transitional period of three years, to commence immediately after the General Assembly has taken note of the finding of the Committee for Development Planning to graduate that country.

86. The principal organs continued to take decisions during the period under review with regard to specific measures in favour of island developing countries²⁹⁷ and land-locked developing countries.²⁹⁸ With regard to the former, the Assembly decided, by its resolution 47/189, to convene in Barbados in April 1994 the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Assembly affirmed that the conference should elaborate strategies and measures to enhance the sustainable development of small island developing States in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development world-wide, with the objective of adopting plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of these States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, as well as measures to enable them to cope creatively with environmental changes, and to mitigate impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources. The Assembly decided in addition that the Conference would examine strategies for national and international action to arrive at specific agreements and commitments by Governments and intergovernmental organizations in this field. At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly endorsed the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as adopted at the Conference.²⁹⁹ By the same resolution, the Assembly made recommendations to UNDP and the Commission on Sustainable Development for follow-up and implementation of the Programme. It requested the Secretary-General to establish within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development a clearly identifiable entity with the resources and number of qualified and competent professional and support staff necessary to undertake its broad range of functions in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action.

²⁹³ E S C decisions 1991/173 and 1994/225.

²⁹⁴ See e.g., G A resolutions 46/206 and 49/133.

²⁹⁵ G A resolution 45/198.

²⁹⁶ G A resolution 46/206.

²⁹⁷ G A resolution 45/202.

²⁹⁸ See e.g., G A resolution 46/156.

²⁹⁹ G A resolution 49/122.

7. DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

87. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to take decisions in the field of trade and development, stressing the importance of trade as a major instrument of economic growth and sustainable development for all countries.³⁰⁰ In this regard, the United Nations promoted a number of goals and measures. For example, decisions of the General Assembly supported general objectives such as a favourable and conducive international economic environment for international trade and development,³⁰¹ the diversification of the economies, in particular the commodity sector, of the developing countries, with a view to modernizing their production, distribution and marketing systems, enhancing productivity and strengthening their export earnings.³⁰² The principal organs continued to support within the GATT forum, and in particular a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.³⁰³ The principal organs continued to make recommendations with respect to the outcome of negotiations, affirming that the resulting agreement, *inter alia*, should contribute positively to building up and strengthening the infrastructure and technological capacities of the developing countries through the strengthening of the multilateral trading systems,³⁰⁴ and should result in terms of both expansion of exports and substantially increased market access.³⁰⁵ At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly welcomed the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, in particular the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization.³⁰⁶

88. As in the past, the work of the General Assembly in this field was substantially informed by the Trade and Development Board³⁰⁷ and, more generally, the UNCTAD in its role as principal organ of the Assembly and focal point within the United Nations to conduct policy analysis, conceptual work and consensus building in the field of trade and development, as well as the focal point for the integrated treatment of development issues in areas such as trade, commodities, finance, investment, services and technology.³⁰⁸ The Assembly welcomed³⁰⁹ and promoted a document adopted by the UNCTAD at its eighth session in 1992, which was convened by Assembly resolution 45/205, entitled “A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment.”³¹⁰ In this context, the Assembly promoted the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, a process launched by the eighth session of the UNCTAD, welcoming the adoption of the Columbus Ministerial Declaration on Trade Efficiency embodying a policy framework and recommendations.³¹¹ Also during the period, the Assembly welcomed an agreement by the UNCTAD to refocus its substantive work on four areas: new partnership for development, global interdependence, paths of development and sustainable development.³¹²

89. The principal organs continued to make recommendations as to the specific approach for national and international efforts in order to promote a better functioning of commodity markets and achieving stable and more predictable conditions in commodity trade.³¹³ The General Assembly, noting the role which commodity exports play in the economies of the developing countries as a whole, recognized the urgent need to strengthen efforts to address the grave problem of shortfalls in the commodity-export earnings of developing countries.³¹⁴ The Assembly urged developed countries to promote policies and adopt

³⁰⁰ G A resolution 49/101.

³⁰¹ See e.g., G A resolution 49/99.

³⁰² G A resolution 49/104.

³⁰³ See e.g., G A resolution and E S C resolution 1991/52.

³⁰⁴ G A resolution 45/203.

³⁰⁵ E S C resolution 1991/52.

³⁰⁶ G A resolution 49/97.

³⁰⁷ See generally G A resolutions 44/219 and 46/209; E S C resolution 1990/57.

³⁰⁸ G A resolution 48/55.

³⁰⁹ G A resolution 47/183.

³¹⁰ See G A resolutions 47/187, 48/55, and 49/101.

³¹¹ G A resolution 49/101.

³¹² G A resolution 47/183.

³¹³ G A resolution 44/218 and 45/200.

³¹⁴ G A resolutions 47/85 and 49/104.

measures aimed at providing substantially larger export possibilities to developing countries, especially through improved access to markets, to support necessary trade policy reforms and structural adjustment processes in developing countries.³¹⁵ It urged Governments to fulfil commitments to halt and reverse protectionism.³¹⁶ The Assembly also promoted commodity agreements and arrangements.³¹⁷ The Assembly noted the establishment of the Common Fund For Commodities and urged increased active participation in, and the establishment of, forums of consumers and producers as a means of exchanging information on, *inter alia*, investment plans, prospects and markets for individual commodities.³¹⁸

90. Decisions in the field of trade and development continued to take account of the interdependent nature of trade and other fields, such as food and agriculture, environment and sustainable development,³¹⁹ external debt problems of developing countries³²⁰ and economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries.³²¹ For example, with regard to trade and the fields of the environment and of food and agriculture, the Council stressed the importance of a fair and more free system of agricultural trade, taking into account the interests of net food-importing countries and the need to ensure that environmental protection concerns do not generate unjustified barriers to trade, thereby creating a new form of hidden protectionism.³²² It should be noted that the principal organs addressed the question of institutional developments related to the strengthening of international institutions in the area of multilateral trade:³²³ the elaboration of Agenda 21 and the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the World Trade Organization during the period lead to calls by the principal organs for increased integration in the fields of trade, environment and sustainable development, recommending that the Commission, UNCTAD, UNEP and the FAO continue to be appropriately represented at the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization.³²⁴

91. The Council, during the period under review, promoted interregional co-operation for the facilitation of international trade.³²⁵ In one instance, the Council, bearing in mind that regional economic integration was important in expanding trade and investment, urged the regional commissions, at the request of member States, together with UNCTAD, in accordance with the Cartagena commitment, to contribute to the identification, preparation and implementation of specific projects to facilitate economic integration and to submit them to bilateral donors, regional economic integration organizations, regional development banks and financial institutions for their consideration.³²⁶

92. Trends in the decisions of the principal organs addressing the question of technology transfer continued as in past *Supplements*.³²⁷

8. DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICIES

93. As in the past, during the period under review, the principal organs continued to take decisions with regard to the question of social development and policies, recognizing the need and the right for Member

³¹⁵ G A resolution 45/203.

³¹⁶ G A resolution 44/219; E S C resolution 1991/52.

³¹⁷ See e.g., G A resolutions 45/200 and 47/185.

³¹⁸ G A resolution 45/200.

³¹⁹ G A resolution 49/111.

³²⁰ See e.g., G A resolution 47/198.

³²¹ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/217 and 46/209.

³²² E S C resolution 1991/53.

³²³ E S C resolutions 1990/57.

³²⁴ G A resolution 49/111.

³²⁵ E S C resolutions 1989/118 and 1991/76.

³²⁶ E S C resolution 1992/43.

³²⁷ See e.g., G A resolutions 44/14, 45/204, 47/182, and 49/111.

States to select their own social priorities, policies and objectives. The principal organs took decisions with regard for the need for an integrated, unified approach to development planning and analysis in social and economic questions. One of the principal themes of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade was the need to strengthen the mutually reinforcing relationship between economic growth and human welfare.

94. It will be recalled that, at its forty-second session, the Assembly decided to observe in 1989 the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. During the period under review, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council, made recommendations on integrating the Declaration in the current work of the Organization. In addition, both the Assembly and the Council continued to consider the question of social justice as one of the most important goals of social progress, reaffirming the importance of cooperation among countries in promoting a climate conducive to the achievement by individual countries of the goals of development. Also during the period, the principal organs promoted the use of and follow-up to the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future.

95. During the period under review, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council, decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State in early 1995 to “further the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in Article 55, to promote ‘higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development’ and ‘solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems’, with particular focus on social development aspects.”³²⁸ The Assembly identified those core issues affecting all societies that should be addressed by the Summit: the enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups, the alleviation and reduction of poverty; and the expansion of productive employment.³²⁹ In this light, the Council decided to devote its High-level segment of 1993 to consideration of “World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development.”

96. As in the past, recommendation to States in this field generally served to call upon States to give special attention in their national development plans and programmes to the social aspects of development. In one case, the General Assembly, by its resolution 46/95, called upon Member States to promote economic development and social progress by pursuing an interrelated set of policy measures to achieve the goals established within the framework of national plans and priorities for employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the aging, full participation of youth in the development process and full integration and participation of women in development.

97. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to focus on the question of the family and of children. Decisions included such topics as domestic violence, instrumental use of children in crime activities, the International Year of the Family, women and children in Namibia, and the plight of street children. By its resolution 45/217, the Assembly welcomed the adoption by the World Summit for Children in 1990 of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action on Implementing the World Declaration in the 1990s. The Council addressed the question of optional protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,³³⁰ the plight of street children,³³¹ the basic measures needed for the prevention and eradication of these problems, as well as the involvement of children in armed conflicts.³³²

³²⁸ G A resolution 47/92, on the recommendation of E S C 1992/27.

³²⁹ *Ibid.*

³³⁰ E S C resolution 1994/10.

³³¹ G A resolution 49/212.

³³² G A resolution 45/104; E S C resolution 1994/10.

98. By resolution 44/25, the Assembly adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention on the Rights of the Child, contained in the annex to the resolution. The Convention, contains a number of provisions relevant to the mandate under Article 55 (a) and (b) to promote economic and social development, by further promoting the right to development. For example, by Article 27(1), “States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.” By Article 3(2) of the Convention, “States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.” By Article 3(3), “States parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety- health, in the number of suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.” The Convention promotes economic, social rights to education³³³ and health,³³⁴ as well as the right to cultural participation.³³⁵

99. By its resolution 44/82, the Assembly, guided by the resolve of the peoples of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family, with major activities for observance concentrated at the local, regional and national levels assisted by the United Nations system of organizations. At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly welcomed the designation by the Secretary-General of a Coordinator for the International Year of the Family and the establishment of an organizational secretariat for the Year, within the Social Development Division of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Assembly also invited all States to promote action to establish national mechanisms such as coordination committees, to prepare for the observance and the followup of the Year, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of the governmental agencies and organizations.³³⁶ For its part, the Council took decisions on the preparation for and observance of the Year. In one instance, the Council requested that in the planning and executing of programmes and activities for the Year, special attention should be given to socio-economic and cultural conditions in developing countries as they affect the approaches taken to family issues.³³⁷ In another instance, the Assembly decided to designate two plenary meetings devoted to the implementation of the follow-up to the Year of the Family as an international conference on families to take place at an appropriate global policy-making level.³³⁸

100. As in the past, the principal organs continued to promote policies and programmes for the integration and participation of youth in society. Both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly promoted the use of the guidelines for further planning in the field of youth, endorsed by General Assembly resolution 40/14,³³⁹ and the guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, adopted by resolutions 32/135 and 36/17.³⁴⁰ Emphasis for the programmes of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies was placed on youth-related projects and activities dealing with such themes as communication, health, malnutrition, poverty, housing, culture, youth employment, education, drug abuse, environment and human rights.³⁴¹ The Assembly appealed to States to adopt effective measures, particularly in the fields of teaching and education, culture and information, to strengthen and promote among nations and among youth

³³³ G A resolution 44/25, annex, Article 28(1).

³³⁴ Article 24 (1)

³³⁵ Article 32.

³³⁶ G A resolution 45/133.

³³⁷ E S C resolution 1991/14.

³³⁸ G A resolution 47/237.

³³⁹ G A resolution 45/103; E S C resolution 1989/51.

³⁴⁰ G A resolution 49/154.

³⁴¹ See G A resolutions 47/85

understanding, mutual respect and friendship.³⁴² It also invited Member States to include, whenever possible, youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings.³⁴³ The Assembly³⁴⁴ and the Council³⁴⁵ requested the preparation of a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, based on a review and appraisal of progress achieved in implementing the objectives of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, and proposals to be submitted by Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations. The principal organs decided to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace by adopting the world programme of action for youth.³⁴⁶ The Assembly decided further to mark the anniversary by designating in 1995 an international youth day at its fiftieth session to be observed annually.³⁴⁷ In a further action related to youth, during the period under review, the Assembly adopted the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency.³⁴⁸

101. As in the past, the principal organs continued to address the question of aging and the implications of increased numbers and proportions of older adults on social and economic development. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council continued to take decisions to ensure the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging.³⁵⁰ The principal organs promoted instruments prepared as a new conceptual and operational framework on aging. By its resolution 1989/50, the Council endorsed a draft programme of United Nations activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging, in 1992. By its resolution 45/106, the Assembly endorsed the action programme on aging for 1992 and beyond. At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly adopted the global targets on aging for the year 2001 as a practical strategy on aging, and urged Member States to support that strategy.³⁵¹ The Council also adopted the United Nations Principles for Older Persons recommended for incorporation into national programmes of Governments wherever possible.³⁵² By resolution 47/5, the Assembly adopted the Proclamation on Aging and decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons.

102. The Council recommended that the United Nations provide further advisory services to countries in the progress of development, change and transition, at their request, to ensure that the issue of aging remained an important part of their social development programmes.³⁵³

103. The Economic and Social Council made recommendations to the Assembly regarding items for priority consideration at plenary Assembly meetings on this matter. In one instance, the Council recommended that the General Assembly devote four plenary meetings to an international conference on aging to consolidate a set of targets on aging for the year 2001 and to celebrate, on an appropriate global scale, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging.³⁵⁴ By its resolution 46/91, the Assembly adopted the Council's recommendation.

104. During the period, the principal organs continued to take decisions with regard to the full integration of disabled persons in society, with particular focus on the disabled in developing countries. The

³⁴² See G A resolutions 44/59 and 49/154.

³⁴³ G A resolution 49/154.

³⁴⁴ G A resolution 45/103.

³⁴⁵ E S C resolutions 1991/11 and 1993/24.

³⁴⁶ See generally G A resolution 49/152; E S C resolution 1993/24.

³⁴⁷ G A resolution 49/152.

³⁴⁸ G A resolution 45/112.

³⁴⁹ G A resolution 40/29.

³⁴⁹³⁵⁰ G A resolution 44/67; E S C resolution 1989/49.

³⁵¹ G A resolution 47/86.

³⁵² *Ibid.*

³⁵³ E S C resolution 1991/10.

³⁵⁴ E S C resolution 1991/10.

principal organs also addressed specific areas, such as the question of disabled women.³⁵⁵ The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by General Assembly resolution 32/57, formed the agenda at the beginning of the review period. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the Assembly containing a preliminary outline of a long-term strategy to the year 2000 and beyond: a society for all.³⁵⁶ The Assembly invited Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the agenda for action and the preliminary outline and to use them as guidelines in preparing national, regional and international agendas for action, and long-term strategic plans with precise targets to be reached in the field of prevention, rehabilitation and equality of opportunities by the year 2000.³⁵⁷

106. Also during the period under review, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to turn the focus of the United Nations programme on disability from awareness raising to action, to give higher priority and visibility to disability issues within the work programme of the United Nations system to provide it with an adequate allocation of funding to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations as a catalyst for change, as a standard-setting organization, as a forum for the exchange of views and as a promoter of technical co-operation activities.³⁵⁸ The Assembly reiterated the responsibility of Governments for removing or facilitating the removal of barriers and obstacles to the full integration of persons with disabilities into society, and supported their efforts in developing national policies to reach specific objectives. It urged Governments to show their commitment to improving the situation of persons with disabilities, *inter alia*, by establishing an appropriate governmental mechanism to be responsible for policy relating to persons with disabilities and overall coordination, addressing disability issues within integrated social development policies linked to other socio-economic issues, and, where appropriate, creating new or strengthening existing high-level national coordinating committees or other similar bodies in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of National Coordinating Committees on Disability or Similar Bodies.³⁵⁹

107. The Council took decisions to promote national and regional coordinating committees on disability.³⁶⁰ The Council called for an integrated policy approach to disability issues as part of an overall effort to attain a sustainable social development strategy.³⁶¹ Also during the period, the principal organs began to address the question of the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, establishing an *ad hoc* group of experts within the Commission for Social Development to elaborate a standard set of rules.³⁶² By its resolution 48/96, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council,³⁶³ adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, annexed to that resolution, requesting Member States to apply them in developing national disability programmes. The rules included target areas for equal participation, implementation measures and monitoring mechanisms.

108. During the period under review, the principal organs also took a considerable number of decisions in the fields of crime prevention and the control of narcotics. With respect to the former,³⁶⁴ during the period, the principal organs reaffirmed the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in crime prevention under Council resolution 155 C (VII) and General Assembly resolution 415 (V), which was affirmed in Economic and Social Council resolutions 731 F (XXVIII) and 830 D (XXXII), and in the promotion and strengthening of international co-operation in this field in accordance with Assembly

³⁵⁵ E S C resolution 1991/20.

³⁵⁶ G A resolutions 44/70 and 45/91.

³⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁵⁸ G A resolution 47/88. *See also* G A resolution 46/96.

³⁵⁹ G A resolution 47/88.

³⁶⁰ E S C resolution 1991/8.

³⁶¹ E S C resolution 1991/9.

³⁶² E S C resolution 1990/26.

³⁶³ E S C resolution 1993/19.

³⁶⁴ *See also* the Analytical summary of this study, section I.B.1.f.

resolutions 3021 (XXVII), 32/59 and 32/60, 35/171 and 36/21.³⁶⁵ In this light, the principal organs continued to promote the implementation of the Milan Plan of Action.³⁶⁶ On the basis of Assembly resolution 415, the organization convened quinquennial United Nations congresses on crime prevention and treatment of offenders during the period. The Council acknowledged the influence of the United Nations congresses, as global events, on national policies and practices by facilitating the exchange of views and experiences, by mobilizing public opinion and by recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels, thus making a significant contribution to the promotion of international and technical co-operation in this field.³⁶⁷ On the preparations for the United Nations Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Council adopted resolution 1993/32, in which it approved the provisional agenda and rules of procedure recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. By its resolution 1994/19, the Council requested that the Secretary General, *inter alia*, appoint a Secretary General and an Executive Secretary of the Ninth Congress, and invited the Congress to consider a number of issues and actions.

109. The principal organs also took a number of institutional decisions during the review period. It will be recalled that, during the previous period, the principal organs had taken measures to review the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations system in this field.³⁶⁸ The measures taken during the period under review would include the dissolution of the Committee in order to establish a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council.³⁶⁹

110. The principal organs adopted decisions on a variety of topics in the field of crime prevention, including organized crime³⁷⁰, juvenile justice³⁷¹, the independence of the judiciary³⁷², codes of conduct for law enforcement officials³⁷³, standards and norms³⁷⁴, on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,³⁷⁵ on guidelines for the prevention of urban crime,³⁷⁶ the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment,³⁷⁷ on the minimum rules for the administration of criminal justice,³⁷⁸ on the problem of organized smuggling of illegal migrants across national boundaries and the role of organized transnational criminals in this area,³⁷⁹ on the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,³⁸⁰ justice for victims of crime and abuse of power³⁸¹, and crime prevention and criminal justice generally³⁸².

111. In addition, other regional and interregional institutes and organizations were created during the period under review to combat crime during the period under review, including the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, established in 1989.³⁸³ That same year, the

³⁶⁵ See G A resolution 44/72; see also E S C resolution 1989/69 and 1991/51.

³⁶⁶ Adopted in G A resolution 40/32. See e.g., G A resolution 44/72; E S C resolution 1989/62.

³⁶⁷ E S C resolution 1989/69.

³⁶⁸ See *Supplement No. 6*, under this Article, para. 49.

³⁶⁹ See *supra*, Part B.1.f.

³⁷⁰ E S C resolution 1989/70; G A resolution 44/71.

³⁷¹ E S C resolution 1989/66.

³⁷² E S C resolution 1989/60.

³⁷³ E S C resolution 1989/61.

³⁷⁴ E S C resolution 1989/63.

³⁷⁵ See G A resolution 48/101; E S C resolution 1993/33 and 1994/21.

³⁷⁶ E S C resolution 1994/20.

³⁷⁷ E S C resolution 1994/15.

³⁷⁸ E S C resolution 1994/17.

³⁷⁹ E S C resolution 1994/14.

³⁸⁰ E S C resolution 1994/18.

³⁸¹ E S C resolution 1989/57.

³⁸² E S C resolution 1989/68; G A resolution 44/72.

³⁸³ E S C resolution 1989/59.

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute was established to replace the United Nations Social Defense Research Institute.³⁸⁴ In one aspect of past practice continued during the period, United Nations national correspondents, appointed by Governments to co-operate with the Secretariat in matters concerning crime prevention and control, played a role in this field.³⁸⁵

112. In that light, the principal organs took measures to strengthen the capacity of the Organization in this field. The Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, requested him to create a single drug control programme, to be called the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), based at Vienna, and to integrate fully therein the structures and functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Control. The Programme would serve as the main focus for concerted international action for drug abuse control and international coordinator for drug control activities. The Assembly invited the Secretary-General to structure the Programme around treaty implementation, policy implementation and research, and operational activities. It also requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to consider means of improving the Commission's functioning as a policy-making body, and to submit recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in 1991.³⁸⁶ The Assembly also reaffirmed the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to coordinate and provide effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities.³⁸⁷ In addition, the Council decided to establish the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, along the lines of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies that have already been established for other regions and with the status of a subsidiary organ of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Accordingly, it invited the Governments of States of the European region and other interested Governments to participate in that Meeting.³⁸⁸

113. By its resolution 44/16, the Assembly decided to hold a special session of the Assembly to consider the question of international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing effectiveness of such cooperation. Held in 1990, the seventeenth special session of the Assembly adopted the Declaration and Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.³⁸⁹ The principal organs continually reaffirmed and promoted the Global Programme of Action, as well as the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, as adopted by the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking,³⁹⁰ throughout the remainder of the review period.

114. As in the past, the principal organs promoted international instruments in this field, urging States to ratify or accede to, and to enact the necessary legislative and administrative measures compatible with, the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.³⁹¹

115. Problems considered during the period included cocaine and heroin production,³⁹² the diversion of the precursor and essential chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic

³⁸⁴ E S C resolution 1989/56.

³⁸⁵ E S C resolution 1989/58.

³⁸⁶ G A resolution 45/179.

³⁸⁷ G A resolution 47/100.

³⁸⁸ E S C resolution 1990/30. *See also* E S C resolution 1991/42.

³⁸⁹ G A resolution S-17/2. *See also* G A resolutions 49/168

³⁹⁰ *See Supplement No. 6*, under this Article, paras. 113-115.

³⁹¹ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 45/146, 47/97, 48/12 and 49/168; E S C resolution 1994/5.

³⁹² E S C resolution 1991/40.

substances,³⁹³ the demand and supply for opiates for medical and scientific needs,³⁹⁴ reduction of demand and prevention of drug consumption among young persons in the Near East, including the elaboration of comprehensive policies, programmes, models, manuals and strategies to prevent and reduce abuse of drugs by children.³⁹⁵

9. DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

116. During the period under review, the principal organs, mainly the Economic and Social Council, recognizing the fact that numerous countries attached growing importance to privatisation of enterprises, administrative deregulation, increased competition, open markets and demonopolization of their economic activities,³⁹⁶ gave increased focus on the role of transnational corporations in international economic relations, examining areas in which such corporations might assist in promoting development and in resolving economic problems. The role of the principal organs in this field, in addition to setting the agenda for international co-operation by the United Nations system in this field, was based mainly on the initiation of studies and the provision of advisory services and operational activities. Areas of focus included the role of transnational corporations in attracting foreign direct investment,³⁹⁷ their role in national privatisation processes,³⁹⁸ the role of transnational banks in developing countries with serious debt-servicing problems,³⁹⁹ the role of transnational corporations in development in Africa,⁴⁰⁰ their role in promoting access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and increasing environmental protection,⁴⁰¹ and their role in promoting regional economic integration and co-operation among developing countries through joint ventures.⁴⁰² For example, the Council elaborated the agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations to include the following: transnational corporations in the world economy and trends in foreign direct investment to developing countries, in particular including the interrelationship of investment, trade, technology and development; the role of transnationals in services; international arrangements and agreements relating to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations; the experience gained in technical co-operation relating to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations, and; the implementation of the United Nations programme on transnational corporations.⁴⁰³ During the period, the Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct a study of the experience of joint ventures among national corporations from different developing countries and their contribution to their development process,⁴⁰⁴ as well as on issues of environmental protection.⁴⁰⁵ The Council also requested the Secretary-General to prepare further studies on the role of transnational corporations in providing other services, including financial services, and on strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations.⁴⁰⁶

117. The Council affirmed the need to enlarge the role of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations in promoting new forms of economic co-operation among developing countries within its

³⁹³ E S C resolution 1993/40.

³⁹⁴ E S C resolution 1989/15.

³⁹⁵ E S C resolution 1990/33

³⁹⁶ E S C resolution 1992/36.

³⁹⁷ G A resolutions 41/201, 42/202; E S C resolution 1990/71.

³⁹⁸ See e.g., E S C resolutions 1993/49.

³⁹⁹ See e.g., E S C resolution 1989/28.

⁴⁰⁰ See e.g., E S C resolution 1989/26.

⁴⁰¹ See e.g., E S C resolution 1990/71, II.

⁴⁰² *Ibid.*, III and E S C resolution 1991/55.

⁴⁰³ E S C decision 1993/304.

⁴⁰⁴ E S C resolution 1989/21.

⁴⁰⁵ E S C resolution 1989/25 and 1990/71, III.

⁴⁰⁶ E S C resolution 1990/70, III.

mandate in order to provide assistance to the Government of the least-developed countries at their request pertaining to foreign direct investment by transnational corporations,⁴⁰⁷ and in technical co-operation for interested developing countries.⁴⁰⁸ The institutional machinery in this field was restructured during the period. The Council noted the establishment of the Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat, which fully subsumed the mandate of the former United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations for research, technical co-operation, advisory services, training programmes and information services. In addition, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Division were the focal points within the United Nations system for matters concerning direct investment as it related to transnational corporations.⁴⁰⁹ Subsequently, at its forty-ninth session, the Assembly, endorsing the Secretary-General's decision pursuant to 47/212B to consolidate all activities related to transnational corporations within the UNCTAD, decided that the Commission on Transnational Corporations should become a Commission of the Trade and Development Board and be renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations.⁴¹⁰ The Assembly requested the Trade and Development Board to address urgently the question of orienting the programme of work of the Commission on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, at its twentieth session, that the Board should orient the work in such a way as to attract the attendance of relevant senior public sector officials, as well as private sector representative. The work should include, *inter alia*, the promotion of the exchange of views and experience among interested Governments, businesses, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, trade unions and experts on issues relating to international investment, transnational corporations and the creation of an enabling environment for private sector and enterprise development; the review and guidance to the Secretariat with regard to its research activities and the provision of information on policies, programmes and developments related to international investment and transnational corporations, and; the creation of an enabling environment for private sector and enterprise development. The Assembly further decided that the Commission would keep under review the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.⁴¹¹

118. Also during the period, the principal organs continued to take decisions with regard to the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa,⁴¹² as well as the elaboration of the code of conduct on transnational corporations.⁴¹³ The Council continued to take note of the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.⁴¹⁴

10. DECISIONS REGARDING ASSISTANCE IN CRISIS AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

119. During the period under review, trends in the decisions of the principal organs regarding assistance in crisis and emergency situations continued as in past *Supplements*. The principal organs continued to take decisions with regard to assistance to countries affected by natural disasters,⁴¹⁵ non-natural emergencies such as civil strife,⁴¹⁶ or both,⁴¹⁷ as well as with regard to assistance to refugees and displaced

⁴⁰⁷ E S C resolution 1989/23.

⁴⁰⁸ E S C resolution 1989/21.

⁴⁰⁹ E S C resolutions 1992/35 and 1993/49.

⁴¹⁰ G A resolution 49/130.

⁴¹¹ *Ibid.*

⁴¹² *See e.g.*, G A resolution 46/84; E S C resolutions 1990/70 and 1992/34.

⁴¹³ *See e.g.*, E S C resolution 1989/24.

⁴¹⁴ E S C resolution 1990/71, IV.

⁴¹⁵ *See e.g.*, G A resolutions 46/239 and 47/157; E S C resolution 1994/36.

⁴¹⁶ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 47/105; E S C resolution 1991/3.

⁴¹⁷ *See e.g.*, G A resolution 44/176 and 47/107; E S C resolution 1990/67.

persons:⁴¹⁸ the field as such came to be encapsulated under the rubric of “humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations.”⁴¹⁹

120. Decisions were taken to assist countries with regard to specifically serious disasters, including efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,⁴²⁰ to fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa,⁴²¹ to extend humanitarian assistance to victims of situations resulting from the use of mercenaries and from colonial or alien domination.⁴²² The principal organs took decisions to assist front-line states,⁴²³ The principal organs also took decisions to aid the reconstruction of newly-established countries: for example, at its 1990 session, the Council, welcoming the establishment of the Republic of Yemen and bearing in mind the considerable burden involved in the reconstruction of its economic and social institutions, called upon all States to contribute generously and respond effectively to the country’s reconstruction and rehabilitation needs.⁴²⁴

121. By resolution 44/236, the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990; and adopted the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction contained in the annex to the resolution. In addition, it decided to designate the second Wednesday of October as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, to be observed annually during the Decade by the international community. In this light, early in the period, the principal organs reaffirmed the mandate of the UNDRD, established by the General Assembly in resolution 2816 (XXVI), as the focal point in the United Nations system for matters related to disaster relief and disaster mitigation,⁴²⁵ and also reaffirmed the important role played by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation as the focal point for overview and coordination of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system for the Decade.⁴²⁶ As discussed below, however, during the period, the mandate for UNDRD would be altered.

122. The principal organs also used the decade as well as consensus documents such as guidelines as a vehicle to promote efforts in this field: recalling resolution 42/169, in which the Assembly had decided to designate the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, would pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction. The Council, by resolution 1989/99, recommended that the General Assembly take action to develop an appropriate framework for international co-operation to attain the objective and goals of the Decade. The arrangements in the framework for action included a request that the Secretary-General establish a special high-level council, consisting of a limited number of internationally prominent persons, which would provide him with general advice with respect to the Decade, take appropriate action to promote public awareness and mobilize the necessary support from the public and private sectors. The Secretary-General would also establish, in addition, a scientific and technical committee on the Decade to develop overall programmes to be taken into account in bilateral and multilateral co-operation for the Decade, to assess and evaluate the activities carried out in the course of the Decade and to make

⁴¹⁸ See e.g., G A resolution 46/18, E S C resolution 1991/3

⁴¹⁹ See e.g., G A resolutions 46/182 and 47/168. In previous periods, a distinction appears to have been made between natural and non-natural disasters, as well as humanitarian and emergency situations. See *Supplement No. 7*, under this study, paras. 53-56. Humanitarian disasters were frequently considered as separate from emergency disasters – for example, General Assembly resolution 36/225 stressed the need to ensure prompt delivery of concerted relief through an efficient and effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance. See also G A resolutions 37/144 and 41/201; E S C resolutions 1983/47 and 1984/60.

⁴²⁰ See e.g., G A resolution 46/150.

⁴²¹ See e.g., E S C resolution 1990/62.

⁴²² See e.g., G A resolution 46/89.

⁴²³ See e.g., G A resolution 47/163.

⁴²⁴ E S C resolution 1990/65.

⁴²⁵ E S C resolution 1990/63.

⁴²⁶ G A resolution 45/185.

recommendations on the overall programmes to the Secretary-General.⁴²⁷

123. In this same vein, the principal organs took decisions during the period to further strengthen the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations. At its forty-sixth session, the Assembly adopted a text, annexed to the resolution, to strengthen coordination in this field, containing a set of guiding principles, as well as guidelines for prevention, preparedness, stand-by capacity and consolidated appeals.⁴²⁸ With regard to institutional questions, the principles emphasized the leadership role of the Secretary-General, and called for the designation by the Secretary-General of a high-level official (emergency relief coordinator) to work closely with and with direct access to him, in co-operation with the relevant organizations and entities of the system dealing with humanitarian assistance and in full respect of their mandates, without prejudice to any decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the overall restructuring of the Secretariat of the United Nations. The high-level official, later to be renamed the Emergency Relief Coordinator,⁴²⁹ would combine the functions carried out up to then in the coordination of United Nations response by representatives of the Secretary-General for major and complex emergencies, as well as by the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator,⁴³⁰ and would, *inter alia*, process requests from affected Member States for emergency assistance requiring a coordinated response, maintain an overview of all emergencies through, *inter alia*, the systematic pooling and analysis of early-warning information, organize, in consultation with the Government of the affected country, a joint inter-agency needs-assessment mission and preparing a consolidated appeal to be issued by the Secretary-General, and manage, in consultation with the operational organizations concerned, the central emergency revolving fund and assisting in the mobilization of resources. The Assembly also called for the establishment of an Inter-Agency Standing Committee, serviced by a strengthened Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and chaired the high-level official with the participation of all operational organizations. Country-level coordination would be conducted by the resident coordinator.⁴³¹ In addition, during the period, the Assembly took decisions to strengthen the early warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters.⁴³² At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly welcomed the establishment of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (successor to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator) and the appointment of an Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, as envisaged in resolution 46/182. By its resolution 48/57, the Assembly stressed that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, should serve as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination and act therefore in an action-oriented manner on policy issues related to humanitarian assistance and on formulating a coherent and timely United Nations response to humanitarian emergencies.

124. The Council⁴³³ and the Assembly⁴³⁴ endorsed the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, in particular its Plan of Action, by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held in May 1994.

125. Also during the period, the Assembly took decisions with regard to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,⁴³⁵ strongly reaffirming the fundamental nature of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner to provide international protection. In the same resolution, the Assembly welcomed the appointment of a Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children, and reiterated the

⁴²⁷ G A resolution 44/236.

⁴²⁸ G A resolution 46/182 and annex.

⁴²⁹ See G A resolution 47/168.

⁴³⁰ Established by G A resolution 2816 (XXVI).

⁴³¹ G A resolution 46/182, annex.

⁴³² G A resolution 49/22 B.

⁴³³ E S C resolution 1994/31.

⁴³⁴ G A resolution 49/22.

⁴³⁵ G A resolution 47/105.

importance of promoting measures to ensure the protection and well-being of refugee children. The Assembly also welcomed the proposal of the High Commissioner to appoint an environmental coordinator responsible for developing guidelines and taking other measures for incorporating environmental considerations into the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, especially in the least developed countries, in view of the impact on the environment of the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner.

126. Finally, the Assembly decided to convene, not later than the year 2000, a second world conference on natural disaster reduction.⁴³⁶

B. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

1. THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN RESPECT OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SOLUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, HEALTH, AND RELATED PROBLEMS

126. As in the sections on Article 55 (a) and (b) in *Supplements 5, 6 and 7*, the aim of this analytical summary is to provide an understanding of the role of the principal organs in promoting the goals of Article 55 (a) and (b) for the period under review. Thus, this section examines the procedural development of various relevant agenda items considered by the principal organs of the United Nations during the review period. Moreover, it serves to identify the overall approach by which the principal organs responded to particular issues and problems of economic and social development as well as international cultural and educational co-operation. It should be noted that, due to the broad scope of the work of the United Nations in the fields covered by Article 55 (a) and (b), the summary presents only illustrative examples of practice.

a. *The Eighteenth Special Session of the General Assembly: the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries*

127. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly decided to convene in April 1990, a special session devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development in developing countries, and to include in the provisional agenda of its 44th session an item entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1990."⁴³⁷ The purpose of the session was to "take stock of the significance of the transformation of the world economy, to consider ways and means of meeting the challenges presented by the new decade in the economic and social fields, particularly those of the developing countries and to provide more effective means of multilateral co-operation in the economic field."⁴³⁸ The session would serve as a forum for dialogue, discussion and deliberation, and focus on enhanced international and regional economic co-operation, improved policy coordination and the formulation of policy recommendations. The session would also review problems facing the world economy, including the need for recovery and revitalization of growth and development in developing countries, and address those problems, taking into account their interrelationships.⁴³⁹ The General Assembly decided that an intergovernmental preparatory committee of the whole should be established to make the necessary preparations for the special session, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee a comprehensive report on the state of international economic co-operation, in particular on effective ways of revitalizing economic growth and development in developing

⁴³⁶ G A resolution 49/22 A.

⁴³⁷ G A decision 43/460.

⁴³⁸ *Ibid.*, annex, para. 1.

⁴³⁹ *Ibid.*, annex, para. 2.

countries.⁴⁴⁰

128. In July 1989, the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly decision 43/460, submitted to the Preparatory Committee on the Whole for the special session, a preliminary outline on the state of international economic co-operation, in particular, on effective ways and means of revitalizing the economic growth and development of developing countries.⁴⁴¹ The outline covered problems facing developing countries such as the external debt crisis and poverty, and presented some conditions or elements to promote the economic growth and development of these countries.⁴⁴² The outline suggested certain conditions necessary to promote the revitalization of growth and development, such as: (a) a strengthening of international economic co-operation,⁴⁴³ (b) the improvement of the international economic environment, focusing in correcting the imbalances existing between the developed and developing countries,⁴⁴⁴ (c) the solution of the debt crisis of developing countries,⁴⁴⁵ (d) the resumption of private flows including private direct investments to developing countries,⁴⁴⁶ (e) a reform of the international monetary system,⁴⁴⁷ and (f) the strengthening of the commodity earnings of developing countries.⁴⁴⁸ The outline also examined recovery and development in Africa and sustained development and the environment.

129. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of its General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1990" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.⁴⁴⁹ At the meeting of the Second Committee, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole noted that during the Preparatory Committee's first session it had been decided that he should hold informal consultations on the special session with regional groups and delegations and should reflect the outcome of such deliberations in a preliminary report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.⁴⁵⁰

130. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its decision 43/460, the Preparatory Committee for the Whole presented a report on its work.⁴⁵¹ The report noted that the purpose of the special session should be to mobilize political will, introduce new opportunities of international economic co-operation and to reflect a consensus on growth and development with particular emphasis on developing countries. The role of the United Nations was necessary but not sufficient to reactivate growth and development, insofar as political consensus was needed to strengthen international economic co-operation and thus allow the United Nations to play an active role in that field. The work of the Preparatory Committee was based on the following outline: (a) the main developments in the 1980's and the challenges of the 1990's; (b) the reactivation of economic growth and development in developing countries, and; (c) the strengthening of international co-operation and multilateralism in international economic relations.

131. The annex to Assembly decision 44/444 directed the Committee's attention to the fact that the special session should bring to the attention of the international community the challenges of the 1990's,⁴⁵² in the context of the increasing interdependence of the world the interaction of national and international policies was essential⁴⁵³. The special session, the Assembly stated, should focus on the

⁴⁴⁰ *Ibid*, annex, para 7 and 8.

⁴⁴¹ A/AC.233/3.

⁴⁴² *Ibid*, para 6.

⁴⁴³ *Ibid*, para 28.

⁴⁴⁴ *Ibid*, para 29.

⁴⁴⁵ *Ibid*, para 33.

⁴⁴⁶ *Ibid*, para 38.

⁴⁴⁷ *Ibid*, para 41.

⁴⁴⁸ *Ibid*, para 45.

⁴⁴⁹ A/44/859, para. 1.

⁴⁵⁰ A/C.2/44/SR.44

⁴⁵¹ A/44/45

⁴⁵² G A decision 44/444, annex, para 4.

⁴⁵³ G A decision 44/444, annex, para 5.

reactivation of economic growth and development of the developing countries. In that vein, it was necessary to overcome the external debt problem, provide adequate financial flows to the developing countries, enlarge market access for exports of the developing countries, promote regional economic co-operation and integration and facilitate the access of developing countries to new technologies⁴⁵⁴. The special session should also focus on enhanced international and regional co-operation and improved policy coordination⁴⁵⁵. Attention should be paid to the issue of sustained and sustainable development and protection of the global environment.⁴⁵⁶ Recalling Assembly decision 43/460, the special session should also focus on enhanced international and regional economic co-operation and improved policy coordination.⁴⁵⁷ In addition, the special session should pay attention to the human resources dimension, stressing the importance of international co-operation in supporting and strengthening the human resources in developing countries, the “inextricable link between education, acquisition of skills and technical training, and economic growth and sustained development.”⁴⁵⁸ Finally, the Assembly stated that the special session should consider appropriate guidance for strengthening international economic co-operation and multilateralism in international economic relations, and should complement the international development strategy for the 1990s.⁴⁵⁹

132. During the course of its three sessions, the Preparatory Committee, *inter alia*, considered the preliminary outline, heard statements from the Secretary-General, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and various delegations.⁴⁶⁰ The Committee also considered several draft proposals submitted by delegations, containing elements for a declaration of the special session, and draft declarations themselves.⁴⁶¹ The Committee decided to submit a text on “Assessment of Developments in the 1980s,” based on the proposals submitted by delegations and amendments thereon, and a compilation of these proposals, including a language for the preamble and for principles of international economic co-operation in a declaration for the introduction to the final document of the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session.⁴⁶²

133. The eighteenth special session of the General Assembly was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The session was declared opened on April 23, 1990. The General Assembly established the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Eighteenth Special Session and allocated to it consideration of agenda item 9, entitled “International economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries”. The *Ad Hoc* Committee had before it the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Eighteenth Special Session⁴⁶³ and a report presented by the Secretary-General on the state of international economic co-operation and effective ways and means of revitalizing the economic growth and development of developing countries⁴⁶⁴. The *Ad Hoc* Committee decided to establish an open-ended drafting group to review the texts submitted to it by the Preparatory Committee.⁴⁶⁵ The Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Committee circulated a draft proposal for a declaration on international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries.⁴⁶⁶

134. The special session concluded with the adoption, on the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee

⁴⁵⁴ G A decision 44/444, annex, para 6.

⁴⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, para 7.

⁴⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, para 8.

⁴⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

⁴⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 9.

⁴⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 10-11.

⁴⁶⁰ *See Ibid.*, annexes.

⁴⁶¹ *See* A/AC.233/L.3, L.6, and L.8; *see also* A/S-18/7, Parts I, II and III.

⁴⁶² A/S-18/7, Part III.

⁴⁶³ A/S-18/7 (Parts I and II)

⁴⁶⁴ A/AC.223/5

⁴⁶⁵ A/S-18/14, para. 6.

⁴⁶⁶ A/S-18/AC.1/L.2

of the Eighteenth Special Session, of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries.⁴⁶⁷ The Declaration proclaimed the commitment of the Member States to promote international economic co-operation for sustained growth of the world economy and in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries. It noted each country's responsibility for its own economic and social development, in accordance with its special situations and conditions.⁴⁶⁸ The Declaration enumerated some of the problems the world economy had suffered during the 1980's, and emphasized the great challenges brought by the 1990's such as the revitalization of growth and social development of developing countries that required sustained growth of the world economy and favorable external conditions. Economic development was to be achieved taking into account the need for such development to be environmentally sound and sustainable.⁴⁶⁹ Countries should have to adapt their national policies to facilitate open exchange and flexible responses to the changing world economy. Developed countries should promote sustained growth and narrow imbalances in a ways benefiting other countries.⁴⁷⁰

135. The Declaration also noted environmental concerns, and, in this vein, declared that all countries should take effective actions for the protection and enhancement of the environment in accordance with their respective capacities and responsibilities, taking into account the specific needs of the developing countries.⁴⁷¹ Regional economic co-operation was also considered as an important instrument of development, in particular in the expansion of trade and investment in developing countries.⁴⁷² Finally the Declaration affirmed the important role the United Nations system had to play in the revitalization of development in the 1990's.

b. Decisions with respect to entrepreneurship

136. During the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations emphasized the important role of entrepreneurship as one of the essential elements for economic growth, especially in developing countries. In 1988, the Economic and Social Council, reaffirming General Assembly resolution 41/182, had requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study on measures to promote the contribution of national entrepreneurs to the economic development of developing countries.⁴⁷³ In his report, the Secretary-General pointed out that national entrepreneurship had an important role in promoting economic development, and in creating employment and technological advancement in both developed and developing countries. The Secretary-General indicated that the development of entrepreneurship within a country or community required certain components:

- Positive role images of successful independent businesses;
- Opportunities to practice entrepreneurial attributes;
- Provision, both formally and informally, of knowledge into the process of independent business management;
- Network of independent business or family contacts in order to provide market entry opportunities;

⁴⁶⁷ G A resolution S-18/3.

⁴⁶⁸ *Ibid*, para 4.

⁴⁶⁹ *Ibid*, para 16.

⁴⁷⁰ *Ibid*, para 23.

⁴⁷¹ *Ibid*, para 29.

⁴⁷² *Ibid*, para 34.

⁴⁷³ E S C resolution 1988/74.

- Ample opportunities for familiarization with small business tasks;⁴⁷⁴
- Political frameworks sympathetic to the growth of small independent businesses;⁴⁷⁵
- Adequate capital and access to credit or investment finance;⁴⁷⁶
- Adequate taxation systems and governmental regulation, administered in such a manner so as not to make compliance too onerous or bureaucratic;⁴⁷⁷
- Governmental policies tending to reduce monopolies and oligopolies and encourage competition among producers instead.⁴⁷⁸

137. A number of United Nations bodies were involved in the promotion of entrepreneurship during the period under review.⁴⁷⁹ (a) UNDP, whose main task in this field was to assist Governments in the design of supportive policies and institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks focused on fostering entrepreneurship and private initiative; (b) UNCTAD, whose mandate in this area, arising from requests of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, was to promote increased investment flows between enterprises of developing countries and to support existing regional business information and promotion centers, and; (c) UNIDO, whose aims in this field consisted of, *inter alia*, the improvement of policy environment for potential entrepreneurs and industries, development of a support infrastructure and direct support to individual enterprises or entrepreneurs through local institutions.

138. By resolution 1990/71, the Council requested the United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations (CTC) to continue its efforts to develop programmes of support for cooperative activities of small and medium sized enterprises in developing countries. The CTC continued to develop Empretec, a programme focused on the support of small- and medium-sized enterprises through linkages with transnational corporations and promotion of co-operation among the private and public sectors. By its decision 1990/265, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly consider and take appropriate action on a draft resolution entitled “Entrepreneurship as a means of attracting non debt creating flows of capital”⁴⁸⁰ at its forty-fifth session. The draft noted the relevance of private enterprise in the growth and development of countries and recognized the need to create the necessary environment to enable the spirit of entrepreneurship and competition. It also urged states to enhance their legal and regulatory frameworks and to make their capital and credit markets more efficient in order to allow the development of the private sector.

139. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly allocated the item to its Second Committee. In a statement in the Committee on a revised draft resolution adopted on the item,⁴⁸¹ one delegation explained its negative vote on the basis that such a resolution was contrary to the pluralism that should characterize the United Nations system.⁴⁸² Moreover, it understood that the purpose of the resolution was to promote the system of market economies, which, in the delegation’s opinion, did not bring favorable opportunities for everyone. Finally, the delegation stated that, if such resolution was adopted, it would have the dangerous effect of recommending specific measures and socio-economic models to Member States; the delegation rejected the idea that other countries should be encouraged to strengthen market economy structures.⁴⁸³ On the recommendation of the Second Committee, the General Assembly adopted the draft

⁴⁷⁴ A/45/292, para. 6.

⁴⁷⁵ *Ibid.* para. 7.

⁴⁷⁶ *Ibid.* para. 34.

⁴⁷⁷ *Ibid.* para. 38.

⁴⁷⁸ *Ibid.* para. 45.

⁴⁷⁹ See A/46/206/add.2

⁴⁸⁰ A/C.2/45/L.2

⁴⁸¹ A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2

⁴⁸² A/C.2/45/SR.54

⁴⁸³ A/C.2/45/SR.54, para. 4-5

resolution as resolution 45/188, by which the Assembly acknowledged the importance of entrepreneurship in mobilizing resources and in promoting economic growth and socio-economic development. The Assembly indicated its belief that entrepreneurship contributed to a more efficient world economy and requested the Secretary-General to incorporate, in subsequent issues of the World Economic Survey, a chapter related to the role of entrepreneurship in growth and developments. Finally, the Assembly requested the Director General of Development and International Economic Co-operation to include, in his annual report on operational activities for development, a section about the activities being undertaken by the United Nations to promote entrepreneurship and also decided to include this item in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session.

140. In 1991, the Secretary-General presented a report of the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on operational activities for development of the United Nations system to the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council.⁴⁸⁴ The report contained information requested by the General Assembly, including information on resource trends and action taken by the United Nations with regard to, *inter alia*, entrepreneurship. The report stated that the United Nations system did not have a system-wide strategy for promoting entrepreneurship in economic development.⁴⁸⁵ The report suggested that, because of the essential role played by entrepreneurship in development, specialized agencies dealing with this issue should enjoy flexibility in the design of operational activities, in order to be able to respond to the different requirements of each specific country. In response to the request of proposals in Assembly resolution 45/188, the report offered suggestions to be considered, such as the full utilization of national institutions to promote the private sector, thus creating in this way an environment conducive to entrepreneurship, the enunciation of specific goals related to this issue, and the use of the United Nations as a forum for individual and corporate bodies interested in this field.⁴⁸⁶

141. During the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the item again was discussed in the Second Committee, under the rubric of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The existence of a growing international consensus on the important role that the private sector could play in promoting sustainable economic development was noted.⁴⁸⁷ Moreover, it was stated that achieving the goals set forth in resolution 45/188 would be a complex task because, as many of the delegations understood, the promotion of entrepreneurship could not be done with a universal formula, but rather by the adaptation and transfer of know how to the particular social, economic and political needs of each country.⁴⁸⁸ In this vein, one delegation stated that “there was no ‘universal prescription’ for successful development and that each country was responsible for its own economic and social growth in accordance with its particular situation and conditions.”⁴⁸⁹ Emphasis was also given to the necessary role governments should have in fostering entrepreneurship. There was consensus on the idea that Governments should create the enabling environment for entrepreneurship to flourish, for example, by the adoption of fiscal policies that enabled entrepreneurs to accumulate sufficient capital to develop and expand their businesses.⁴⁹⁰

142. On the recommendation of the Second Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/166. By its terms, the General Assembly recognized the important role of technical assistance in assisting governments develop and revitalize their economies through free enterprise, competitive markets and entrepreneurship and urged the United Nations bodies and organs to increase the efficiency of their activities related to the promotion of entrepreneurship.⁴⁹¹ It also requested the Secretary-General to

⁴⁸⁴ A/46/206 – E/1991/93

⁴⁸⁵ *Ibid.* para. 39.

⁴⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 42 and 44.

⁴⁸⁷ A/C.2/46/SR.9

⁴⁸⁸ A/C.2/46/SR.19, para. 7.

⁴⁸⁹ A/C.2/46/SR.21, para. 47.

⁴⁹⁰ A/C.2/46/SR.20, para. 14.

⁴⁹¹ G A resolution 46/166, para. 3 and 6.

submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, recommendations for action by the United Nations in support of entrepreneurship.⁴⁹²

143. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly⁴⁹³ welcomed the activities being undertaken by United Nations bodies and relevant organs and organizations in supporting national efforts aimed at promoting economic growth and sustainable development through different means, such as privatisation, demonopolization and administrative reforms, urging them to: (a) strengthen their communication and co-operation in supporting the national efforts of countries in privatizing enterprises, demonopolizing and deregulating the economic activities and implementing other relevant policies⁴⁹⁴ and (b) take into account the work already implemented by United Nations system and organs in order to maximize the efficiency of the system⁴⁹⁵. The General Assembly called upon interested Member States to enhance exchange of information among themselves and all relevant organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system on their activities, programmes in order to increase the efficiency and coordination of technical co-operation in this field.⁴⁹⁶ It also requested the Secretary-General to improve research activities on all areas of privatisation, demonopolization and administrative deregulation and to include all pertinent findings in relevant United Nations publications, including the World Economic Survey.⁴⁹⁷

144. The question of entrepreneurship also was introduced in the agenda of the forty-eighth session pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/171. The Secretary-General presented a report on entrepreneurship and national development,⁴⁹⁸ pointing out the several obstacles entrepreneurship had in some countries, which prevent it from developing correctly, such as:

- Lack of a stable set of business laws and effective institutions to manage market system.
- Lack of access to credit, due to high transaction costs of small loans.
- Marketing problems due to the lack of market information and inaccurate information.
- Bureaucracy and complex tax regulations.

145. The report also made reference to the role of entrepreneurs in environmental protection. The report maintained that a regulatory system which charged entrepreneurs for the resources they used and any environmental damage they produced was required.⁴⁹⁹ The report recommended several measures, based on the comparative experience of the different countries, for the promotion of entrepreneurship. In that sense, the report remarked that a comprehensive approach to entrepreneurial development was needed, as well as the development of banking systems and financial markets in order to ensure adequate financial services for entrepreneurs. Finally, the role of the international community was discussed, arriving to the conclusion that all nations of the world should act together to create an international order which enabled and facilitated the development of activities of the private sector.

153. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/180, recognizing the importance of the private sector for the efficient functioning of the national economies and, bearing in mind the economic, social and cultural diversity in the world, inviting the Member States to enhance the exchange of information among themselves and with the organs and bodies of the United Nations system

⁴⁹² G A resolution 46/166, para. 12.

⁴⁹³ G A resolution 47/171.

⁴⁹⁴ *Ibid*, para. 1 (b).

⁴⁹⁵ *Ibid*, para. 1 (c).

⁴⁹⁶ *Ibid*, para 2.

⁴⁹⁷ *Ibid*, para. 3 and 4.

⁴⁹⁸ A/48/472. By resolution 46/166, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its 48th session, on the basis of consultations with member states and international organizations, a report with recommendations for action by the United Nations system in support of entrepreneurship, taking into account the role of women in development, the environmental aspects of private sector activities and the impact of the international environmental on efforts to promote entrepreneurship.

⁴⁹⁹ A/48/472, para. 31-33.

on their activities and experiences with these issues. It also noted the important role of governments in creating the enabling environment supportive of entrepreneurship as well as the need for a supportive international environment, and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the activities of the United Nations system in this matter and to prepare a biennial report on policies related to entrepreneurship, privatisation, demonopolization and administrative reform.

c. Decisions regard the eradication of poverty

154. In 1989, the problem of poverty was discussed in the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation⁵⁰⁰, which compared inequalities of income distribution among different regions and found stark divergences among the developing regions. In March 1990, a supplement⁵⁰¹ to the 1989 Report was submitted by the Secretary General to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, in response to Council resolution 1989/72. The report noted that reversing the negative trend of poverty on a mass scale that had characterized the 1980s was one of the principal challenges of development in the 1990s.⁵⁰²

155. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/195,⁵⁰³ in 1989, the Secretary General submitted a report entitled “International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,”⁵⁰⁴ which, *inter alia*, discussed the impact of the economic crisis of the 1980s on poverty, concluding that it had negatively affected poverty in Africa and had halted the earlier achievements of eradicating poverty in Latin America. The report also examined three programme areas used for poverty reduction: development of small enterprises; investment in urban infrastructure; and operational considerations with regard to earnings enhancement, security enhancement, poverty targeting and institutional aspects. The Secretary-General’s report on the topic for the following year⁵⁰⁵ included an examination of policies and measures for reducing poverty as well as international economic conditions and co-operation policies that could aid in the eradication of poverty. The report concluded that, since the last report of the Secretary General, real progress on poverty issues had been scant, and that much still needed to be done in the area of international co-operation to eradicate poverty in developing countries.

156. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/212 entitled “International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries”, which, *inter alia*, stressed the strong relationship between poverty, development and the environment, and identified the eradication of poverty in developing countries as one of the most important development objectives, requiring both national and international action. It requested the Secretary General to submit over its next two sessions a progress report and a comprehensive report containing, *inter alia*, an analysis of the diversified impact of adverse international economic conditions on the intensification of poverty in developing countries and specific recommendations for effective policy measures for the urgent and permanent eradication of poverty.

157. . At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/213, in which it was agreed that the eradication of poverty in the developing countries was an objective of the highest priority. The Assembly urged relevant organs, organizations and bodies in the United Nations system to formulate and implement necessary measures and actions to eradicate the problem.

158. In 1991, pursuant to Assembly resolution 44/212, the Secretary General submitted another report

⁵⁰⁰ 1989 Report on World Social Situation (ST/ESA/213), Sales No. E.89.IV1.

⁵⁰¹ A/45/137, E/1990/35.

⁵⁰² *Ibid.*

⁵⁰³ G A resolution 43/195.

⁵⁰⁴ A/44/467.

⁵⁰⁵ A/45/398.

on the topic,⁵⁰⁶ examining the general causes, nature and incidence of poverty and the impact of the international economic environment on poverty during the 1980s. It furthermore summarized the experience of developing countries concerning the eradication of poverty and suggested international policy measures to combat this problem, which included the improvement of the international economic environment and the reorientation of official development assistance (ODA). The report stated that domestic policies to reduce and eliminate poverty would need to go hand in hand with long-term external support. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/141 which stressed the importance of domestic policies, including effective budgetary policies, to mobilize and allocate domestic resources for the eradication of poverty, and reiterated that a supportive international economic environment was required to deal with the problem. The Assembly requested the international community to adopt specific and effective measures so as to increase financial flows to developing countries, and requested the Secretary General to report to the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, on the advancements in coordinating actions, in co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organizations and other multilateral bodies, to formulate improved and enhanced action-oriented technical co-operation programmes for the eradication of poverty in developing countries.

159. The Council, by decision 1992/204, decided that its coordination segment for that year should include the theme of assistance in the eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes.

160. In a subsequent May 1992 report to the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Coordination of the Policies and Activities of the Specialized Agencies and other Bodies of the United Nations System,”⁵⁰⁷ the Secretary-General presented the Council with a review of the recent developments in the area of poverty relevant to coordination issues. The report emphasized impact of structural adjustment programmes and provided an outline of the strategies, priorities, policy orientations and programmatic activities of the United Nations system in the area of poverty eradication. The report drew partly on the discussions and conclusions of the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives⁵⁰⁸ on the same subject. It furthermore included formulations of specific suggestions to improve and strengthen coordination processes and structures and identified the need to develop a coherent system-wide framework for action in the area of poverty eradication.

161. A note by the Secretary-General⁵⁰⁹ on the international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries drew special attention to the May 1992 report⁵¹⁰ and to annex IV to the report of the Economic and Social Council,⁵¹¹ which contained the concluding statement of the President on the coordination segment and recommendations to the Secretary-General and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for enhancing the coordination and coherence of the assistance programmes and activities of the system relating to the eradication of poverty.

162. Subsequently, at its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/197 which recognized that poverty was a complex and multidimensional problem, and noted the negative effect of large debt burdens and their impact on poorer sections of society in many developing countries. The resolution reiterated its request to the international community to adopt specific, effective measures designed to increase financial flows to developing countries, and urged the developed countries to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance. It urged all donors to contribute generously to the tenth replenishment of the International Development Association, to the fourth replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural

⁵⁰⁶ A/46/454. It should be noted that the

⁵⁰⁷ E/1992/47.

⁵⁰⁸ ACC/1992/7.

⁵⁰⁹ A/47/530.

⁵¹⁰ E/1992/47.

⁵¹¹ A/47/3; and A/47/3/Rev.1.

Development and to other international financial institutions, with a view to ensuring that those institutions continued their fight against poverty, especially in rural areas.

163. At the same session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/196, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, in which it decided to declare 17 October an International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, to be observed beginning in 1993. It invited all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution and requested the Secretary-General to take measures to ensure the success of the observance by the United Nations of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

164. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/184. The Assembly recognized the central role women play in the eradication of poverty and emphasized that special attention should be given to the least developed countries, the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries that have areas of concentrated poverty. By the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary General to urge the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in the framework of the help they give to developing countries, to strengthen their institutional capacities for implementing their poverty eradication programmes and to adopt a coordinated and integrated approach that took into account, *inter alia*, the role and needs of women, with attention to social services, income generation and the increased participation of local communities.

165. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted resolution 48/183, which, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, proclaimed 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. It decided that the major activities for the observance of the Year should be undertaken at the local, national and international levels and invited all States, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations concerned and interested national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to exert every possible effort in the preparations for and observance of the Year. The Assembly furthermore requested the Secretary General to prepare a draft programme on the preparations for and observance of the Year, and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat was designated as the preparatory body, and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the International Year.

166. At the Assembly's forty-ninth session, the Secretary General submitted an October report⁵¹² on the preparations for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, which presented the proposed timetable for preparation of the programme and discussed the activities undertaken within the United Nations system. It concluded by stressing that decisions to be adopted by major international conferences to be held in 1994 and 1995, in particular the World Summit for Social Development (1995), would assist in these preparations, and that the Year would build on substantive experience gained within the United Nations and on successful policies and programmes.

167. At the same session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/110 on the recommendation of the Second Committee concerning the "International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty." The Assembly therein recognised that the eradication of poverty and the full achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and strategies were interrelated goals and stressed that an in-depth and complete study of the nature, causes and consequences of all types of poverty in developing countries which affect mankind was necessary within the framework of the Year. It further requested the Secretary General through the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University to give appropriate consideration, in directing their research and studies of all types of poverty, to the experiences of the poor themselves.

⁵¹² A/49/572.

168. Efforts by the Organization with regard to the eradication of poverty were reflected in other initiatives taken within the United Nations system, as well as at the international and regional level. A Declaration by the ministers of the Group of 77⁵¹³ highlighted the need for the implementation of domestic/national and international policies directed towards the eradication of poverty and hunger in order to improve the human condition and to maximize the full potential of all members of the society, including women and children.

169. By its resolution 46/17 entitled “International Forum on Health – A Conditionality for Economic Development: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Inequity,” the General Assembly welcomed the initiative by the Government of Ghana and the World Health Organization to hold an International Forum on this topic.

170. In a letter dated 30 January 1992, the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations transmitted to the Secretary General the Colombo Declaration, issued at the Sixth Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), held in December 1991. One of the main topics discussed in the declaration was poverty alleviation, recognizing the importance of education in the battle against poverty and reaffirming the goal of providing primary education to all children between the ages of 6-14 years by the year 2000. It was also decided that an independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation should be established, which would consist of eminent persons from each SAARC member state, to do research on the diverse experiences of poverty alleviation in the respective SAARC countries and to report their recommendations to the Seventh Summit.

171. The eradication of poverty was identified as one of the priority aspects of development in the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by UNCTAD in February 1992.⁵¹⁴ The establishment of a standing committee on poverty alleviation was agreed upon as one of the new committees of the Trade and Development Board. This Committee would contribute to national and international efforts to prevent, alleviate and reduce poverty and to the formulation of national and international policies.⁵¹⁵ The Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, established by the UNCTAD, held its first session at Geneva in January 1993.⁵¹⁶ The Committee recommended that an intergovernmental group of experts meet to exchange experiences on poverty reduction impacts of social funds and safety nets, including mobilization of domestic and external resources for poverty alleviation. The UNCTAD Secretary General convened a workshop on social mobilization and organization of the poor in Tunis, Tunisia later that year.

172. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Poverty Alleviation, established as part of the work programme of the Standing Committee, held its first session in Geneva in January 1994,⁵¹⁷ in which it recommended that the Standing Committee identify the relative impact on poverty reduction and the intervention of cost of each type of external assistance in various countries and the most cost-effective strategies for ensuring that aid actually reached the target group. It also discussed an issues note by the UNCTAD secretariat⁵¹⁸ on poverty reduction impacts of social funds and safety nets.

d. *Efforts towards the prevention and control of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)*

173. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to consider the question of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) as a threat to the attainment of health for all.⁵¹⁹ Attention

⁵¹³ A/45/584.

⁵¹⁴ TD/364.

⁵¹⁵ A/47/15, vol. I (TDB decision 398 (XXXVIII)).

⁵¹⁶ TD/B/39(2)13.

⁵¹⁷ TD/B/CN.2/8.

⁵¹⁸ TD/B/CN.2GE.1/2.

⁵¹⁹ Such had been the perception of the General Assembly in its resolution 43/15 in which it recognized the urgent need to pursue

was drawn to the pandemic's demographic, social, economic and political consequences, due to its substantive impact on all sectors of society and countries. The resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council had noted that the problem required a comprehensive multisectoral response at global and country levels. Thus, in addition, to several international conferences on AIDS, the period saw the first steps towards establishing a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS⁵²⁰.

174. During the period the Fifth International Conference on AIDS was held in Montreal from June 4 to 9, 1989. The Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1989/108, recalled discussions at the Conference and welcomed, in particular, the WHO/UNDP Alliance to combat AIDS, as well as the role of the Alliance in facilitating the implementation, at the country level, of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS. In addition, the Council called upon Governments and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts with the WHO in implementing the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS.

175. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/211 emphasizing that the United Nations system at the country level should be structured and composed to correspond to ongoing and projected co-operation programmes, rather than to the institutional structure of the United Nations system. By Assembly resolution 44/233 regarding prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the Assembly noted with appreciation the arrangements made by the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Director-General of the WHO, to ensure a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the AIDS pandemic, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/15⁵²¹ and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/108.

176. From 20-24 June 1990, the Sixth International Conference on AIDS took place in San Francisco, focusing on "AIDS in the Nineties: From Science to Policy." Shortly thereafter, the deliberations presented at the Conference, as well as other documents were recalled in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/86. The Council called upon organizations of the United Nations system, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts with the World Health Organization in implementing the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS.⁵²²

177. By resolution 45/187, the General Assembly, in view of the serious implications of the AIDS pandemic for development in many developing countries, requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts, in collaboration with the Director General of the WHO, the Administrator of the UNDP, the heads of the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to mobilize the cumulative experience of the United Nations system in the strategic planning of multi-sectoral projects and the raising of funds in support of those countries requesting assistance.

178. The Seventh International Conference on AIDS held at Florence in 1991, was mostly devoted to presentations on vaccine development in laboratory studies, animal models, and human trials. These discussions were recalled in Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/66. The Council expressed its concern regarding the growing spread of the HIV infection and the growing gap between resources required for AIDS prevention and control and the funding available, which at the time, was insufficient to combat the pandemic. Consequently, it urged the Governments to intensify their commitment and efforts

multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, control disease and extend health care in order to accomplish the objective of health for all by the year 2000.

⁵²⁰ As discussed in the previous supplement, General Assembly resolution 42/8 identified and confirmed the World Health Organization as the recognized leader of the global effort to combat AIDS.

⁵²¹ This resolution reaffirmed the need for a coordinated approach by the system and invited the World Health Organization to continue to facilitate the exchange of information and research on prevention and control of AIDS.

⁵²² The Global Strategy was developed by WHO's Global Programme on AIDS. See WHO (05) W2 No. 11, *The Global AIDS Strategy*; WHO (064) W6, Biennial Report of the Director-General 1988-1989.

for the prevention and control of AIDS within their countries, including mechanisms for multisectoral responses and concomitant plans, and called upon organizations of the United Nations system, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to coordinate their efforts with the World Health Organization in implementing the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS.

179. In resolution 46/203, the Assembly recognized that the response to the pandemic must be multisectoral in order to mitigate effectively the social and economic consequences of AIDS and that all sectors of society must be mobilized in support of national programmes to provide support, care, education, counseling and resources in order to combat AIDS. In addition, it requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director General of WHO to intensify his efforts within the United Nations system, in collaboration with the Administrator of UNDP and the heads of the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, and all other relevant United Nations organizations to, among other things, continue to advance coordinated multisectoral implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS.

180. The Eighth International Conference on AIDS took place in 1992 in Amsterdam. That same year, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1992/33 endorsing the updated global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS as the global policy framework.⁵²³ The Council moreover took note of the recommendations of the Management Committee of the World Health Organization Global Programme on AIDS concerning coordination of HIV/AIDS activities at both the global and country level. Additionally, the Council requested all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to collaborate in carrying out those recommendations.⁵²⁴

181. The General Assembly adopted resolution 47/40 at its forty-seventh session, requesting the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the WHO, in close collaboration with all other appropriate bodies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system, to report, through the Secretary General, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, and biennially thereafter, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress in the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS. Subsequently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/199, which expressed concern with the fact that while some progress had been made in implementing parts of its resolution 44/211.

182. The Ninth International Conference on AIDS took place in Berlin in June 1993. The following month, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1993/51 in support of WHO Assembly resolution WHA 46.37⁵²⁵ in which the Director-General of that Organization was requested to study, in close collaboration with all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned, the feasibility and practicability of establishing a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, in close collaboration with five other organizations of the United Nations system, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, and the World Bank. According to Council resolution 1994/71, "the need for a coordinated response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, combined with the steps taken towards United Nations reform, offered a unique opportunity to apply the principles of resolutions 47/199 and 44/211 in order to save lives and reduce the threat that the HIV/AIDS epidemic poses to human well-being." Council resolution 1994/71 also pointed out that an inter-agency working group, with representatives from the six previously mentioned organizations was created and met seven times between May and November 1993 to carry out the study and develop options for the proposed programme. In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations convened a meeting of the executive heads of the six organizations in October 1993 to discuss the study.

⁵²³ E S C resolution 1992/33, para. 2. See also World Health Assembly, document A45/29.

⁵²⁴ E S C resolution 1992/33, para. 3. See also GPA/GMC/92.14.

⁵²⁵ See World Health Organization, *Forty-sixth World Health Assembly*, Geneva, 3-14 May 1993, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA46/1993/REC/1).

183. The subsequent report to the Council⁵²⁶ was the product of an ongoing, concerted process of consultation within the above-mentioned interagency working group. It described action taken to comply with Council resolution 1993/51 and summarized the key aspects of the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, describing steps taken by the inter-agency working group to further develop plans for the proposed programme. The report presented the schedule and, where possible, the outcome of the meetings of the governing bodies at which the study report on the proposed programme was or would be presented. Finally, it proposed a plan and timetable for the eventual establishment of the proposed programme. The report stated that the broad objective of the United Nations joint programme was to enhance the capacity of the United Nations system to contribute to a comprehensive, multisectoral response at global and country levels in an effective, coordinated and accountable manner. In implementing this broad goal, the report outlined a number of specific objectives for the programme to follow.⁵²⁷

184. By its resolution 1994/24, the Council endorsed the establishment of a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS outlined above, calling for the full implementation of the programme by January 1996. The Council requested a report on the implementation of these measures be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1996. It also noted that further details of the programme were being developed by the Inter-Agency Working Group that had been established by the six co-sponsors. The joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS was outlined in the annex to the resolution, subject to further review by April 1995 of progress made towards its implementation.⁵²⁸

e. Measures for strengthening international co-operation to protect the environment

185. Prompted by a growing concern for the environment and the recognition of the interrelationship between the environment and development,⁵²⁹ and upon the request of the General Assembly,⁵³⁰ the Secretary-General in May 1989 submitted a report which indicated the general consensus amongst governments, United Nations organs, intergovernmental organizations and NGO's on the convening of a conference on the environment and development.⁵³¹ On the recommendation of the Governing Council of the UNEP and following the subsequent adoption of resolution 1989/87 by the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly adopted resolution 44/228, in which it decided that such a conference would coincide with World Environment Day on 5 June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The purpose of the Conference was to elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries. In the same resolution, the Assembly identified a number of

⁵²⁶ E/1994/71.

⁵²⁷ The objectives which were mentioned, are to:

- (a) Provide global leadership in response to the epidemic;
- (b) Achieve and promote global consensus on policy and programmatic approaches;
- (c) Strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to monitor trends and ensure that appropriate and effective policies and strategies are implemented at the country level;
- (d) Strengthen the capacity of national Governments to develop comprehensive national strategies and implement effective HIV/AIDS activities at the country level;
- (e) Promote broad-based political and social mobilization to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS within countries, ensuring that national responses involve a wide range of sectors and institutions;

(f) Advocate greater political commitment in responding to the epidemic at the global and country levels, including the mobilization and allocation of adequate resources for HIV/AIDS-related activities.

⁵²⁸ The Tenth International Conference on AIDS, the last one organized during the period under review, was held at Yokohama, Japan, in August, 1994. Its theme was "The Global Challenge of AIDS: Together for the future".

⁵²⁹ See e.g., G A resolution 44/227.

⁵³⁰ G A resolution 43/196.

⁵³¹ A/44/256 - E/1989/66 and Corr. 1 & Add. 1, 2.

environmental issues to be addressed by the Conference as well as the objectives to be achieved. It also provided for the establishment of a Preparatory Committee whose task it would be to draft the provisional agenda of the Conference, to adopt guidelines to enable states to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting, and to prepare draft decisions for the Conference and submit them to the Conference for consideration and adoption. By the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish an appropriate *ad hoc* secretariat pursuant to the first organizational session of the Preparatory Committee. By resolution 44/201B of 21 December, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to ensure that all efforts are made in the UN system in preparation for the proposed Conference.

186. In accordance with resolution 44/228, the Preparatory Committee held a first organizational session in New York in March 1990. The Committee arrived at recommendations for adoption by the Assembly regarding the mandates and responsibilities of the proposed secretariat⁵³² as well as recommendations relating to its own proposed activities, which included, *inter alia*, the drafting of a final declaration of the Conference.⁵³³ Two main working groups were established during the session: Working Group I on the protection of the atmosphere and land resources, conservation of biological diversity, and environmentally sound management of biotechnology; and Working Group II on the protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, coastal areas and freshwaters and their resources, and environmentally sound management of wastes, toxic chemicals and dangerous products.⁵³⁴ An additional, open-ended working group was to deal with legal, institutional and related matters⁵³⁵.

187. The General Assembly, by decision 44/462, decided to include once again the item on the agenda of its forty-fourth session,⁵³⁶ where it adopted resolution 44/462, endorsing the mandates and responsibilities of the proposed secretariat for the Conference, as put forward by the Preparatory Committee. Pursuant to resolution 44/228 of the Assembly, the Preparatory Committee held its first substantive session in conjunction with its two Working Groups in Nairobi, Kenya in August 1990. Subsequently, the Committee, *inter alia*, recommended to the Assembly that the Conference be held from 1-12 June 1992 and that States be represented at the Conference at the level of head of State or Government.⁵³⁷ At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 45/211 which endorsed the above proposals by the Committee and called upon UNEP and other bodies of the United Nations system to give full support to the preparatory process for the Conference.

188. The Preparatory Committee and its Working Groups met for two further sessions in 1991.⁵³⁸ Its second session⁵³⁹ was largely devoted to the discussion of a number of environmental concerns which, in the view of the Preparatory Committee, should be dealt with by the Conference. These discussions formed a basis for Agenda 21 – a comprehensive action plan for the sustainable development of the Earth into the 21st Century which was agreed upon by the representatives to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED). The Committee requested the UNCED secretary-general to integrate the needs of developing countries into all Agenda 21 programme documents.⁵⁴⁰

189. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/168 endorsing the preparatory arrangements of the Preparatory Committee, and requesting the Secretary-General to invite as

⁵³² A/44/48 & Corr. 1.

⁵³³ G A (44), Suppl. 48 (A/44/48), p. 11, para. 3(d).

⁵³⁴ G A (44), Suppl. 48 (A/44/48), p. 11, para. 5 & p. 12, para. 9.

⁵³⁵ G A (44), Suppl. 48 (A/44/48), p. 11, para. 6.

⁵³⁶ See A/44/PV.91.

⁵³⁷ A/45/46.

⁵³⁸ G A (46), Suppl. No. 48, A/46/48 Part I.

⁵³⁹ G A (46), Suppl. No. 48, A/46/48, Part I, vol. II.

⁵⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

participants to the Conference all States members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies, and a number of other designated intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and groups. By the same resolution, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Report of the UN Conference on Environment and Development" and in this regard, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly the report on the Conference.

190. At the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee in 1992, the proposals to be submitted to UNCED were finalized and the draft chapters of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Statement of Principles on Forests were adopted. The Committee also adopted decisions to the effect that NGO's and observers would be allowed to participate at the Conference., which the Assembly adopted, along with the other decisions, in decision 45/468.

191. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the "Earth Summit", took place at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992.⁵⁴¹ The Conference adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, and the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests.⁵⁴² The Rio Declaration constituted an attempt to establish a global agreement on international co-operation in matters of development and the environment. Comprising twenty-seven principles, it serves as a guideline for States in their cooperative effort to protect the environment and stimulate development. Like the Rio Declaration, the adoption of Agenda 21 signified a universal recognition of the interrelationship between development and the environment, and expressed a global agreement on international co-operation towards integration of environmental and developmental concerns. Agenda 21 would be implemented, *inter alia*, through the establishment of a Commission on Sustainable Development by the Economic and Social Council, as a functional commission to the Council in charge of ensuring effective follow-up, and reporting to the Council as the main supervisory body of the programme. Similarly, the Statement of Principles on Forests identified the link between the conservation of forests and socio-economic development and constituted a global agreement on the utilization, management and development of forests within the territories of Member States. In addition, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵⁴³ and the Convention on Biological Diversity were opened for signature at the Conference.

192. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/190 in which it expressed its satisfaction with the active participation of the international community at the Conference. The Assembly endorsed the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Statement of Principles on Forests and urged both the United Nations system and participant Governments to take the necessary action for effective implementation. By the same resolution, the Assembly also stressed the need for the respective conventions on Climate Change and Biological Diversity, respectively, to come into force as soon as possible. The Assembly furthermore decided to include the item "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the UNCED" on the agenda of the forty-eighth and subsequent sessions of the Assembly, and to convene not

⁵⁴¹ Report of the UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, Vol. I - III, Sales No. E. 93.I.8. A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I - III).

⁵⁴² A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I)

⁵⁴³ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1

later than 1997 a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21.

193. At the same session, in response to the report submitted by the Secretary-General⁵⁴⁴, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/191 on institutional arrangements to the follow up of UNCED. This resolution endorsed the international institutional arrangements contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21,⁵⁴⁵ particularly those on the establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development, and a high-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development that would serve to advise the Secretary-General with expert advice on issues related to Agenda 21.⁵⁴⁶

194. In a November report to the Governing Council of UNEP,⁵⁴⁷ the ACC reported that the Secretary-General had established an Inter-Agency Task Force on Environment and Development responsible for submitting to the ACC recommendations relating to the allocation and sharing of responsibilities of the United Nations system stemming from Agenda 21. In October, the ACC established an Inter-Agency Committee for Sustainable Development (IACSD). In addition, the Assembly also adopted resolution 47/194 which endorsed a capacity-building programme (known as the “Capacity 21” initiative) of support to developing countries to implement Agenda 21 proposed by the Governing Council of the UNDP.⁵⁴⁸

195. The Commission on Sustainable Development convened for its first session in June, during which it reported on its initial efforts to incorporate the Rio Declaration into the programmes of the United Nations⁵⁴⁹. The IACSD convened in New York on two occasions for the purpose of discussing the implementation of Agenda 21 by the various UN organs.⁵⁵⁰ A number of joint meetings were held by the ACC and the CPC to discuss the results of UNCED and the implications thereof for the United Nations system, the outcome of which was the proposal of an integrated approach on sustainable development by all bodies within the UN.⁵⁵¹

g. Decisions with respect to crime prevention

196. This section examines the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the goals of the organization in the field of crime prevention, with particular emphasis on the role of these organs in combating organized crime. During the period under review, the principal organs focused considerable attention on the problem of crime prevention, including such questions as organized crime, urban crime, the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment, juvenile justice, standards and norms, codes of conduct for law enforcement officials, justice for victims of crime and abuse of power, the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and crime prevention and criminal justice generally. Much of the work in these areas during the period emerged from the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and from

⁵⁴⁴ A/47/598 & Add. 1.

⁵⁴⁵ G A resolution 47/191.

⁵⁴⁶ G A resolution 47/191.

⁵⁴⁷ UNEP/GC.17/12.

⁵⁴⁸ DP/1992/14.

⁵⁴⁹ E/1993/25/Add.1.

⁵⁵⁰ ACC/1993/24.

⁵⁵¹ E/1994/4.

preparation for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, acknowledged that the United Nations congresses, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices by facilitating the exchange of views and experiences, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels.

197. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, mandated by the Economic and Social Council to, *inter alia*, practical crime prevention and criminal justice policies and monitoring the implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in this field,⁵⁵² did significant work throughout this period. As noted in the previous *Supplement*,⁵⁵³ the principal organs continued to take decisions with regard to preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control serving as the preparatory body for the Congress, continued to fulfill the mandate of the principal organs in this regard.⁵⁵⁴ The Committee had established a Subcommittee to provide an overview of crime and assess the most effective way of stimulating international action on this front.⁵⁵⁵ As described below, the Committee was dissolved during the period, and a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice was established. The United Nations Secretariat updated various documents related to the substantive items considered by the Seventh United Nations Congress for submission to the Eighth Congress.⁵⁵⁶ A number of regional and interregional preparatory meetings were held for the Congress.⁵⁵⁷

198. In February 1990, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control met at Vienna and, in a subsequent report, recommended that the Economic and Social Council adopt resolutions on a number of topics. The Council adopted a resolution on crime prevention and control in which it, *inter alia*, invited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to lend support to the Eighth Congress and invited the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, to take appropriate measures to ensure timely implementation and proper follow-up of the Congress' recommendations. Other resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1990 dealt with, *inter alia*, issues of crime prevention and criminal justice⁵⁵⁸, capital punishment⁵⁵⁹, victims of crime and abuse of power⁵⁶⁰, and technical co-operation⁵⁶¹.

199. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 415 (V), 42/59 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/59, the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders was held from 27 August to 7 September 1990 in Havana, Cuba. The Congress' agenda included five topics:

- a) Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development: Realities and Perspectives of International Co-operation
- b) Criminal Justice Policies in Relation to Problems of Imprisonment, Other Penal Sanctions and Alternative Measures
- c) Effective National and International Action Against Organized Crime and Terrorist Criminal Activities
- d) Prevention of Delinquency, Juvenile Justice and the Protection of the Young: Policy Approaches

⁵⁵² G A resolution 44/72.

⁵⁵³ See *Supplement No. 7*, under this Article, para. 49.

⁵⁵⁴ See G A resolution 44/72; E S C resolution 1989/69.

⁵⁵⁵ See G.A. resolution 44/72.

⁵⁵⁶ E S C resolution 1989/69.

⁵⁵⁷ G A resolution 44/72; E S C resolution 1989/69.

⁵⁵⁸ E S C resolution 1990/27.

⁵⁵⁹ E S C resolution 1990/29.

⁵⁶⁰ E S C resolution 1990/22.

⁵⁶¹ E S C resolution 1990/19.

and Directions

e) United Nations Norms and Guidelines in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Implementation and Priorities for Further Standard-Setting

200. The Eighth Congress adopted its report as a whole. Specifically, after consideration of its agenda item on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development: Realities and Perspectives of International Co-operation, the Congress recommended that the General Assembly adopt two draft resolutions. On this recommendation, the Assembly adopted resolution 45/107 on “International co-operation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development” and resolution 45/108 reviewing the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. After consideration of its agenda item on Criminal Justice Policies in Relation to Problems of Imprisonment, Other Penal Sanctions and Alternative Measures, the Congress recommended that the General Assembly adopt three resolutions, which the General Assembly adopted as 45/109 on computerization of criminal justice, resolution 45/110 on standard minimum rules for non-custodial measures and resolution 45/111 on treatment of prisoners. After considering the item on effective national and international action against organized crime and terrorist criminal activities, the Congress recommended three resolutions for adoption by the Assembly. The General Assembly adopted these as resolution 45/116 on a “Model Treaty on extradition,” resolution 45/117 on a “Model Treaty on mutual assistance on criminal matters,” and resolution 45/118 on a “Model Treaty on the transfer of proceedings in Criminal Matters.” The Congress also considered items concerning policy on the prevention of delinquency, juvenile justice and the protection of the young, and recommended four resolutions for consideration by the Assembly, which the Assembly subsequently adopted: resolution 45/112 concerning guidelines for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, resolution 45/113 on protection of juveniles deprived of their liberty, resolution 45/114 on domestic violence and resolution 45/115 on the use of children in criminal activities. With regard to the implementation of the United Nations Norms and Guidelines in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as priorities further standard-setting, the Congress recommended and the Assembly adopted a resolution on a “Model Treaty on the transfer of supervision of offenders conditionally sentenced or conditionally released” as its resolution 45/119.

201. Also at its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Congress and welcomed the instruments and resolutions adopted thereby, inviting Governments to be guided by them in the formulation of appropriate legislation and policy directives and to make efforts to implement the principles contained in them, in accordance with the economic, social, legal, cultural and political circumstances of each country.⁵⁶² By the same resolution, the Assembly, *inter alia*, endorsed the Congress’ recommendation that priority attention be given to practical measures to combat international crime over the next five year period, invited the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to examine the Congress’ resolutions and recommendations and to make recommendations on their implementation to the Economic and Social Council. The Assembly requested the Council thereafter to provide, on the basis of the Committee’s report overall policy guidance in crime prevention and criminal justice, and to review, monitor and appraise the resolutions and recommendations of the Eighth Congress.

202. During the period under review, the principal organs enacted a number of initiatives at strengthening the institutional capacity of the organization in this field. By its resolution 45/108, the Assembly decided to establish an intergovernmental working group, which would produce a report elaborating proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and suggest the modalities of implementation for such a programme could. The Assembly, by the same resolution, also invited Member States, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to convene an early ministerial meeting: (a) to consider the report of the intergovernmental working group in order to decide what the future crime prevention and criminal justice

⁵⁶² G A resolution 45/121.

programme should be, and; (b) to consider, in this context, the possible need for a convention or other international instrument to develop the content, structure and dynamics of that programme, including mechanisms for setting priorities.

203. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/152 entitled “Creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,” which acknowledged the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group, and took note of the report of the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme approved the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme recommended by the Ministerial Meeting and annexed to that resolution. Within the Statement of Principles, the Assembly

“10. ... acknowledg[ed] the contribution of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme to the international community. We note that it is a long-recognized fact that inadequate resources have been devoted to the implementation of the programme, which has in the past been inhibited from achieving its potential. We also note that a strengthening of the resources devoted to the implementation of the programme was called for by the Sixth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Seventh United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Eighth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. We further note that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session, gave priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of a subcommittee established to provide an overview of the problem of crime and to assess the most efficient means of stimulating practical international action in support of Member States, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/72 of 8 December 1989. The Committee, in its resolution 11/3 of 16 February 1990, unanimously approved a report of the subcommittee on the need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme. That report, which was endorsed by the Eighth Congress, was used as an important tool for the establishment of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/108.

11. We accordingly recommend intensified international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.⁵⁶³

204. Under resolution 46/152, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme would bring together the work of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the network of government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Global Crime and Criminal Justice Information Network and the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, as well as a newly-created the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice, in providing assistance to Member States in their efforts to reduce the incidence and costs of crime and in developing the proper functioning of their criminal justice systems.⁵⁶⁴ The establishment of the Programme was to be effected in accordance with the procedures defined in the annex to the resolution. The scope of the Programme would include appropriate forms of cooperation for the purpose of assisting States in dealing with problems of both national and transnational crime, such as: (a) research and studies at the national, regional and global levels on specific prevention issues and criminal justice measures; (b) regular international surveys to assess trends in crime and developments in the operation of criminal justice systems and in crime prevention strategies; (c) exchange and dissemination of information among States on crime prevention and criminal justice, particularly with regard to innovative measures and the results achieved in their application; (d) training and upgrading of the skills of personnel, and; (e) technical assistance, including advisory services, particularly in respect of the planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes,

⁵⁶³ G A resolution 46/152, annex, I.

⁵⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, II, A.

training and the use of modern communication and information techniques, which could be implemented by means of, for example, fellowships, study tours, consultancies, secondments, courses, seminars and demonstration and pilot projects.⁵⁶⁵

205. In the same resolution, the Assembly set out the goals,⁵⁶⁶ programme priorities⁵⁶⁷ measures for structure and management of the programme⁵⁶⁸ and programme support.⁵⁶⁹

206. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was to be established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council with the power to create ad hoc working groups and to appoint special rapporteurs, as it deemed necessary. The Commission, which would consist of forty Member States of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council, had as part of its terms of reference, the following functions: to provide policy guidance to the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; to develop, monitor and review the implementation of the programme on the basis of a system of medium-term planning in accordance with the priority principles; to facilitate and help to coordinate the activities of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders; to mobilize the support of Member States for the programme, and; to prepare for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and to consider suggestions regarding possible subjects for the programme of work as submitted by the congresses.⁵⁷⁰ The programme would replace the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, which was to be dissolved by the Economic and Social Council upon the establishment by the Council of the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice.⁵⁷¹ At its 1992 session, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of General Assembly resolution 46/152, established the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice through resolution 1992/1. In addition, the Council, by its resolution 1992/22, part VI, articulated the priority themes to guide the work of the Commission in the development of a detailed programme for the period 1992-1996: (a) National and transnational crime, organized crime, economic crime, including money laundering, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment; (b) crime prevention in urban areas, juvenile and violent criminality, and; (c) efficiency, fairness and improvement in the management and administration of criminal justice and related systems, with due emphasis on the strengthening of national capacities in developing countries for the regular collection, collation, analysis and utilization of data in the development and implementation of appropriate policies.

207. The United Nations congresses on the prevention on crime and the treatment of offenders, consultative bodies of the programme, were to continue to be held every five years and were regarded as, *inter alia*, forums to exchange views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts; to identify trends; and to provide advice and comments.⁵⁷² The United Nations institutes—and especially the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders—were to be integrated into the programme, as would be the network of government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal

⁵⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, II, C.

⁵⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, II, B. These included: (a) The prevention of crime within and among States; (b) The control of crime both nationally and internationally; (c) The strengthening of regional and international co-operation in crime prevention, criminal justice and the combating of transnational crime; (d) The integration and consolidation of the efforts of Member States in preventing and combating transnational crime; (e) More efficient and effective administration of justice, with due respect for the human rights of all those affected by crime and all those involved in the criminal justice system, and; (f) The promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity, justice and professional conduct

⁵⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, II, D.

⁵⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, II, E.

⁵⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, II, F.

⁵⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, annex, II, E, 1.

⁵⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 2.

⁵⁷² *Ibid.*, 3.

justice.⁵⁷³ The Programme would have a permanent secretariat responsible for facilitating the implementation of the programme, the priorities of which would be established by the Commission, and for assisting the commission in conducting evaluations of the progress made and analyses of the difficulties encountered.⁵⁷⁴

208. The Commission held its first meeting that same year and made recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for the adoption of draft resolutions on a number of topics. Subsequently, the Council adopted resolution 1992/22 concerning operational activities and coordination in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, deciding, *inter alia*, that under the guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the secretariat of the programme should be responsible for facilitating the planning, coordination and implementation of practical activities in the field of crime prevention, that a subprogramme on operational activities, planning and overall coordination would be established, and that the Commission would be the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Also in response to the Committee's recommendations, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1992/23 on organized crime and resolution 1992/24 on preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Commission held regular meetings thereafter, making recommendations for the consideration of the Council.

209. Under the rubric of crime prevention and criminal justice, during the period under review the principal organs devoted considerable attention to the problem of transnational/organized crime. By its resolution 1989/70, the Economic and Social Council expressed its concern about the recent upsurge in organized crime. Noting the increasingly transnational character of organized crime, the Council recognized that such crime had led "to the spread of such negative phenomena as violence, terrorism, corruption, illegal trade in narcotic drugs" and had undermined the development process more generally, "impairing the quality of life and threatening human rights and fundamental freedoms." Taking into account the decisions of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders relating to organized crime, as well as the views expressed by members of the then-Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Council expressed the conviction that international co-operation needed to be strengthened to combat organized crime. To this end, it recognized the guidance role played by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the coordinating role played by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, and especially its Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The Council invited the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to "give special attention...to promoting international co-operation in combating organized crime," called on governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General, their proposals about how to strengthen such co-operation, and requested the Committee to report back to the Council on this issue at the first regular session of 1992.

210. In a 1989 report detailing preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,⁵⁷⁵ the Secretary-General noted that regional preparatory meetings had been held, some of which considered, *inter alia*, organized crime.⁵⁷⁶ In addition, the Secretary-General reported that the International Association of Penal Law, the International Society for Criminology, the International Society for Social Defense and the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation held a joint-colloquium in which national and international actions against organized crime were discussed. In noting that the upcoming Eighth Congress would serve as a forum to review and exchange information about Member State initiatives regarding crime, the Secretary-General pointed out

⁵⁷³ *Ibid.*, A.

⁵⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, II, B, 4. See also E S C resolution 1992/22.

⁵⁷⁵ A/44/400.

⁵⁷⁶ See e.g., A/44/400, Western Asia p. 12.

that international collaboration was particularly vital with respect to organized crime:

The key importance of the Congress derives from the fact that transnational criminality has become one of the most pressing problems confronting contemporary societies.... It threatens the lives, security and property of individuals and communities, and has profound political implications.... World-wide trafficking in drugs and other forms of organized crime are especially serious manifestations of this phenomenon. Criminality, once traditionally regarded as being of purely domestic concern, can no longer be tackled by Governments individually. Its political, economic, social, cultural and human costs can only be substantially reduced by nations acting in concert, in accordance with Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter..."

211. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/71.⁵⁷⁷ Repeating the concerns expressed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/70, the Assembly also noted that the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would explore how to increase international co-operation to combat organized crime, and invited the Economic and Social Council to request the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to give special attention to the issue at its eleventh session. At the same session, the Assembly also adopted resolution 44/72,⁵⁷⁸ acknowledging that "transnational criminality, particularly in its violent and organized forms, constitutes a serious threat to the development and security of nations," and requesting the Eighth Congress to "pay particular attention to the linkages between illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorist criminal activities, and to propose viable control measures." It also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at the General Assembly's forty-ninth session, in which he would express his views about the conclusions made by the Congress.

212. The General Assembly's Seventeenth Special Session resulted, on 23 February 1990, in the adoption of a Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.⁵⁷⁹ This resolution noted, *inter alia*, that the large financial profits derived from illicit drug trafficking and related criminal activities enable transnational criminal organizations to penetrate, contaminate and corrupt the structure of Governments, legitimate commercial activities and society at all levels, thereby vitiating economic and social development, distorting the process of law and undermining the foundation of states. The Programme of Action articulated measures to suppress illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; to limit the effects of money derived from, used in, or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system; and to strengthen judicial and legal systems, among other things.

213. On 9 July 1990, the Secretary-General issued a report on the "Implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders."⁵⁸⁰ In it, he indicated that "Governments reported increased activity at the international level in order to combat organized crime...including becoming parties to multilateral treaties and entering into bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance." Developments in a number of States were briefly summarized.

214. The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders held in 1990 adopted several model treaties that dealt with organized crime, including the Model Treaty on Extradition, the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, and the Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters.⁵⁸¹ The Congress also adopted several resolutions that dealt with organized crime: Resolution 8, entitled "Racketeering and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and

⁵⁷⁷ G A resolution 44/71.

⁵⁷⁸ G A resolution 44/72.

⁵⁷⁹ G A resolution S-17/2.

⁵⁸⁰ A/45/324.

⁵⁸¹ A/CONF.144/28/Rev. 1, ch. I (A).

psychotropic substances,” expressed the Congress’ concern at “the alarming threat represented by the growing phenomena of organized crime and of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which have taken their place among the most serious crimes facing mankind,” and recognized that international co-operation was needed to combat these problems.⁵⁸² It went on to urge States to intensify the measures that they have adopted so as to respond to the growing phenomena of organized crime and of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, while simultaneously ensuring that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the self-determination of peoples is respected. In Resolution 15 entitled “Organized Crime,” the Congress expressed concern “at the alarming threat and acknowledged gravity of the offenses committed by organized crime, especially terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in arms or persons, and offenses against ecosystems and cultural property.”⁵⁸³ It also recognized that “technical and scientific co-operation, including exchanges of information” were required.

215. In Resolution 24, entitled “Prevention and Control of Organized Crime,” the Congress put forth recommendations for national and international action against organized crime, which it urged Member States to consider implementing.⁵⁸⁴ Such national recommendations included, *inter alia*, raising public awareness about organized crime, researching the structure of organized crime, improving the efficiency of law enforcement and criminal justice, and passing legislation that defines new offenses with respect to money laundering, organized fraud, and operating accounts under a false name. International recommendations included, *inter alia*, the exchange of information between Member States, the creation of model legislation for the forfeiture of the proceeds of crime, and an increase in technical co-operation between States. The resolution also invited “Member States, on request, to make available to the Secretary-General the provisions of their legislation relating to money laundering, to tracing, monitoring and forfeiture of the proceeds of crime, the monitoring of large-scale cash transactions and other measures” in order that such legislation could be used as precedent.

216. After taking note of the Congress’s Resolutions 15 and 24, as well as its own resolution S-17/2, the General Assembly adopted resolution entitled “International co-operation in combating organized crime.”⁵⁸⁵ The General Assembly therein urged Member States to follow through on the recommendations laid out in the above-mentioned resolutions and requested the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to consider ways of “strengthening international co-operation in combating organized crime” and to “submit its views, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.” It then requested the Secretary-General “to include activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, related to organized crime, in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.” Finally, the General Assembly called on Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to co-operate with the United Nations in organizing the International Seminar on Organized Crime to be held in Moscow in October 1991. Assembly resolution 46/152, *inter alia*, mentioned that organized crime was exploiting the relaxation of border controls designed to foster legitimate trade and, as a result, that it is slowing development. It stressed the importance of assisting Member States as they mount programs to combat this problem.

217. At its 1992 session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1992/23, entitled “Organized Crime.”⁵⁸⁶ In it, the Council took note of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to Deal with Transnational Crime, held in Czechoslovakia, and the practical measures against organized crime, formulated by the International Seminar on Organized Crime, held in

⁵⁸² *Ibid.*, (C).

⁵⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸⁵ G A resolution 45/123.

⁵⁸⁶ E S C resolution 1992/23

the Russian Federation, annexed to the resolution. The Council offered them for consideration by Governments in their efforts to enhance the struggle against organized crime, both nationally and internationally. The “Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to Deal with Transnational Crime,” held in Czechoslovakia in May 1991 included, *inter alia*, the development of new laws and regulations, the conclusion of new bilateral and multilateral agreements, and consideration of the creation of a world foundation on crime prevention and assistance of victims of transnational crime. The annexed “Practical measures against organized crime, formulated by the International Seminar on Organized Crime, included a profile of organized criminal groups, discussions of substantive legislation, procedural legislation, law enforcement methods, organizational structures and international co-operation, and, finally, an evaluation.

218. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/87, entitled “International co-operation in combating organized crime,” by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to consider ways of strengthening international co-operation in combating organized crime and to submit its views, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.⁵⁸⁷ It also called upon Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to co-operate closely with the United Nations in organizing practice-oriented workshops, research projects and training programmes to deal with specific aspects of organized criminal activities.

219. In February 1994, the Secretary General submitted a report⁵⁸⁸ in which he described the preparations underway for the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Crime, which was set to be held in Naples, Italy from 21-23 November 1994, pursuant to Council resolution 1993/29. He also described plans for the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Use of Proceeds of Crime to be held from 18-20 June in Courmayeur, Italy. Finally, the report discussed meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on Managing the Risk of Violence in a Criminal Justice System: A Framework of Analysis (which had been held in Chicago, United States from in August 1993), the *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on Implementing Legislation to Foster Reliance on Model Treaties (which had been held in Vienna in October 1993) and the *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on More Effective Forms of International Co-operation against Transnational Crime, including Environmental Crime, held in December 1993. At its 1994 session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1994/12 on organized transnational crime. In it, the Council took note of the Secretary General’s report on preparations for the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime and the Commission’s recommendations on the subject. The goal of the Conference, the Council explained, would be to “contribute towards the creation of a common perception of organized crime within the international community and [to] lead to a generally agreed essential concept of the phenomenon, through which it will be possible to lay down proposals for more homogeneous national measures that will also make co-operation more effective.” The Council expressed hope that the Conference participants would discuss, *inter alia*, criminalizing money laundering; defeating the economic power of criminal organizations through sanctioning and sentencing; the confiscation of illegal proceeds of crime; studying organized crime; encouraging the testimony of members of criminal organizations; and international co-operation during investigations and judicial proceedings. The resolution stressed technical co-operation among states as well as economic compensation for victims of organized crime. At the same session, the Council also adopted resolution 1994/13 on the control of the proceeds of crime. In it, the Council asked the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime to take into account the recommendations of the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime: A Global Approach. The Council also requested the Secretary General to organize regional training seminars to teach criminal justice personnel how to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases

⁵⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸⁸ E/CN.15/1994/4 & Add. 1-3.

involving the laundering and control of the proceeds of crime and to assist Member States in creating model curricula and manuals in this area.

****2. THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN RESPECT OF PROMOTING
INTERNATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CO-OPERATION**