

**Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs  
Supplement No. 9**

(Revised advance version, to be issued in volume IV, Supplement No. 9 (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**

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## 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; and
- 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 generally 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. However, with regard to the General Survey for Part I, the reader will note that the topic headings in this *Supplement* have been changed, and the overall approach amended to focus less on the individual fields of Article 55 (a) and (b) and more on the role of the principal organs in carrying out the mandate under that portion of the Article. Consonant with the approach taken in recent *Supplements*, the Analytical Summary for Part I provides an understanding of the functional role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General in regard to several 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,<sup>1</sup> is dealt with in this *Supplement* solely in the study of a single Article, namely, Article 55.

## I. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

### A. General Survey

#### 1. THE PROMOTION OF THE GOALS OF ARTICLE 55 (A) AND (B)

3. During the period under review, few decisions referred directly to Article 55(a) and (b), although the decisions of the principal organs made frequent reference to the responsibility of the Organization under that Article. During the period under review, there was no significant constitutional discussion

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<sup>1</sup> See *Repertory*, under Article 55, para. 4 and related table.

regarding the interpretation of the provisions contained in Article 55(a) or (b). Nevertheless, the Assembly, in the Agenda for Development adopted at its fifty-first session, identified development as one of the main priorities of the Organization.<sup>2</sup> As in the past, typically, the decisions of the principal organs deal with the terms “full employment,” “higher standards of living,” and “economic and social progress” together under the overall rubric and socio-economic development and sustainable development. Nor have the principal Organs attempted to formally define “economic and social progress and development.” One notable exception is the treatment of full employment within the Agenda for Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/140:

“Creating adequately and appropriately remunerated employment for all and reducing unemployment and underemployment are essential for combating poverty and for promoting social integration. ... Pursuing the goal of full employment should be a basic priority of economic and social policies, so as to enable all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work ... Economic growth as well as the expansion of productive employment should go hand in hand. The expansion of adequately and appropriately remunerated employment and the reduction of unemployment should be placed at the centre of economic and social policies with the participation of employers, workers and their respective organizations. The basic rights and interests of workers and the quality of jobs should be ensured and the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization should be fully respected. Also essential is ensuring equal employment opportunities for women and men. Special efforts should be made against long-term and structural unemployment and underemployment, particularly among youth and women. In employment creation, employment development strategies should take into account the role of self-employment, entrepreneurship, small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector.”

4. In addition, the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development furthered the objectives of Article 55 in the commitment at the national and international level towards the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies, and to enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work.<sup>3</sup> The Programme of Action set out a number of actions to be taken at the national and international level in pursuit of this goal.<sup>4</sup> By the same token, the General Assembly continued to take decisions with regard to developing human resources for development, reaffirmed that people were central to all development-related activities, and that human resources development was an essential means of achieving sustainable development goals.<sup>5</sup>

5. The meaning of the terms “higher standards of living,” and “economic and social progress” can be gleaned from the decisions of the principal organs framing the scope of economic and social development. In this regard, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council stressed the interdependent nature of economic and social development with a number of other fields. In particular, the General Assembly continued to recognize economic and social development along with environmental protection as “mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people...”<sup>6</sup> With regard to “social development,” under the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the term was encompassed by the term “social integration,”<sup>7</sup> the aim of which to create “a society for all”, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play, and which is based on respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice and the special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, democratic participation and the

<sup>2</sup> G A resolution 51/240, annex, para. 1.

<sup>3</sup> A/CONF.166/9, annex I, section C, commitment 3.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II, chap. III.

<sup>5</sup> G A resolution 50/105.

<sup>6</sup> G A resolution 50/107. This view was reflected subsequently in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, A/CONF.166/9, annex I, para. 6.

<sup>7</sup> A/CONF.166/9, annex II, introduction.

rule of law. The Programme elaborates on the process in a number of its aspects, including the continuation of the ongoing process of decolonization; the elimination of *apartheid*; the spread of democracy; wider recognition of the need to respect human dignity, all human rights and fundamental freedoms and cultural diversity; the unacceptability of discrimination; increasing recognition of the unique concerns of indigenous people in the world; an expanded notion of collective responsibility for all members of a society; expanded economic and educational opportunities and the globalization of communication; and greater possibilities for social mobility, choice and autonomy of action.<sup>8</sup>

6. The Declaration on a Culture of Peace, adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, defined such a culture as “a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behaviour and ways of life based on”, *inter alia*, “efforts to meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations,”<sup>9</sup> and “respect for and promotion of the right to development.”<sup>10</sup> The Agenda for Development reflected this dimension: “Peace and development are closely interrelated and mutually supportive. ... Development is indispensable to the achievement and maintenance of peace and security both within and among nations. Without development there can be neither peace nor security.” Moreover, “[d]evelopment cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Under conditions of war, and during periods of short-term emergencies and humanitarian needs, development efforts are often neglected, diminished or abandoned. Excessive military expenditures, arms trade and investment for arms production, acquisition and stockpiling have a negative impact on development prospects.”<sup>11</sup> The Assembly noted the links under certain circumstances between poverty and the increase in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.<sup>12</sup> The Assembly recognized the importance from an analytical and operational point of view of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development, and of taking appropriate steps to intensify the analysis of issues involved.<sup>13</sup>

7. In light of the interdependent nature implied in sustainable development, the principal Organs continued to call for an integrated approach not only to the conception of, but to the formulation and implementation of economic and social problems,

8. The Agenda for Development identified the growth and expansion of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related sectors over the previous 50 years.<sup>14</sup> In a number of instances, the principal organs continued to reaffirm the purposes and the commitment contained in the Charter of the United Nations with respect to Article 55.<sup>15</sup> The Assembly also reaffirmed the central role of the Organization in promoting international cooperation for development and in providing guidance on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence. It furthermore emphasized the key role of the United Nations system in fostering greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in economic and development issues at the global level.<sup>16</sup>

9. The roles of the respective organs in the promotion of the goals of Article 55 (a) and (b) remained generally the same during the period under review, although on numerous instances, such as, for example, within the context of the Agenda for Development,<sup>17</sup> the Organization looked to the need for enhancing its role and effectiveness in the economic and social sectors. In accordance with their respective roles under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly continued to carry out its function in

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. IV, paras. 66-70.

<sup>9</sup> G A resolution 53/243, A, Art. 1 (e).

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Art. 1(f).

<sup>11</sup> G A resolution 51/240, annex, paras. 3-4.

<sup>12</sup> G A resolution 53/115.

<sup>13</sup> G A resolution 50/123.

<sup>14</sup> G A resolution 51/240, para. 241.

<sup>15</sup> See *e.g.*, G A resolutions 51/78, 51/99, and 54/175.

<sup>16</sup> G A resolutions 53/169 and 54/231.

<sup>17</sup> G A resolution 51/240, section III, B.

policy formulation, while the Economic and Social Council continued to provide overall policy management and guidance as well as oversight of coordination throughout the United Nations system.<sup>18</sup>

10. Changes in the application of Article 55(a)&(b) during the period under review emerged from the changing international environment. As the Secretary-General, in his 1997 report on “Renewing the United Nations, a programme for reform,” recognized that

“[t]he nature of development has changed dramatically and is now characterised by greater political and economic openness as well as sensitivity to social and environmental concerns. Import substitution and barriers to trade are being replaced by export-orientation and the elimination of trade distortions. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in private sector capital flows which have now become the primary engine for development in many countries that possess the requisite institutional base. The majority of developing countries, however, continue to have very limited access to private capital and depend on a diminishing pool of overseas development assistance while struggling with problems of poverty, low levels of social development, environmental degradation, and in some cases, political instability. ...”

“147. The demands on the United Nations have expanded over time and are reflected in the mandates emanating from global conferences. Economic, environmental, social, and political changes have added further priorities for development assistance particularly in managing the effects of economic and political transition, ensuring sustainable livelihoods, reversing trends such as the feminization of poverty and redressing threats to the environment. ...”<sup>19</sup>

11. In this vein, the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, welcomed the fact that many countries continued to attach major importance to the privatization of enterprises, demonopolization and administrative deregulation in the context of their economic restructuring policies, as a means to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development. The Assembly furthermore recognized the importance of the market and the private sector for the efficient functioning of economies in various stages of development, as well as the sovereign right of each State to decide on the development of its private and public sectors, taking into account the comparative advantages of each sector, bearing in mind the economic, social and cultural diversity in the world.

12. One of the principal roles of the Organization in the field of Article 55 continued to lie in building international consensus and commitments on global priorities through, *inter alia*, various international conferences, on international economic, social and related issues is one of the most important functions of the United Nations system. The principal organs sought to strengthen international economic relations generally, broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process, and supporting measures to create, a favourable international economic environment.<sup>20</sup> For example, during the period the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, sought to create a such an environment through promotion, *inter alia*, of cooperation in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies, trade liberalization, mobilization and/or the provision of new and additional financial resources, enhanced financial stability, ensuring access of developing countries to global markets, productive investments and technologies.<sup>21</sup>

13. In strengthening international economic relations, the concept of the creation of partnerships became more pronounced during the review period. The Agenda for development recommended promoting the use of panel discussions with delegations and interactive debates with the active participation of Secretariat and agency representatives as well as outside expert as innovative mechanisms in the strengthening and revitalization of the General Assembly.<sup>22</sup> At its fifty-third session, the Assembly,

<sup>18</sup> See G A resolution 51/191; E S C resolution 1997/60.

<sup>19</sup> A/53/190., paras. 146-47.

<sup>20</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 50/91; E S C resolution 1995/14.

<sup>21</sup> G A resolution 50/107.

<sup>22</sup> G A resolution 51/240, para. 247.

reaffirming the continuing need to strengthen constructive dialogue to promote further international economic cooperation for development through partnership, expressed satisfaction at the holding of the first high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications. The dialogue included the use of panels which were not part of the formal proceedings and roundtable discussions which promoted interactive dialogue. The Assembly subsequently decided to hold biennially a renewal of the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on this topic.<sup>23</sup> In this same vein, during the period under review, the principal organs took decisions with regard to strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions at the intergovernmental, country and Secretariat levels, including the holding of a "one-day" policy dialogue established by the Economic and Social Council, bringing together the Executive Heads of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) into a dialogue with the membership of the Organization. In addition, the principal organs promoted dialogue through the organization of panels, workshops, and regional meetings.<sup>24</sup>

14. In the same vein, it will be recalled that, in the past, the United Nations has served as a catalyst to focus the efforts of a number of actors not only within the United Nations system, but at the national, regional and international levels as well, encompassing the fostering of partnerships between, for example, Member States and the United Nations system, the private sector,<sup>25</sup> local communities, non-governmental organizations and civil society.<sup>26</sup> During the period, the United Nations emphasized the effective contribution which civil society could make in addressing particular economic and social problems.<sup>27</sup> In this regard, his 1997 report on "Renewing the United Nations: a Programme for Reform," the Secretary-General stated:

"208. The emergence -- or, in several parts of the world, the re-emergence -- of civil society is linked to two interlocking processes: the quest for a more democratic, transparent, accountable and enabling governance and the increasing preponderance of market-based approaches to national and global economic management, which have resulted in redefining the role of the State and vested new and broader responsibilities in market and civil society actors in the pursuit of growth and well-being. In this overall context, a vibrant civil society is critical to processes of democratisation and empowerment.

"210. Over the past two decades, issues such as people-centred sustainable development, environmental protection, gender equality and rights of indigenous people have been prominent on the international agenda with the encouragement and advocacy of non-State actors. Public participation in

<sup>23</sup> G A resolution 53/181.

<sup>24</sup> See e.g., E S C resolution 1995/4.

<sup>25</sup> It will be recalled that the organization had placed increased emphasis on the role of the private sector, entrepreneurship in the promotion of development. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to recognize the role of the private sector, particularly in the areas of science and technology for development (G A resolution 52/184) and the need to increase private-sector involvement in the provision of infrastructure services, *inter alia*, through joint ventures between public and private entities, while protecting essential services and safeguarding the environment. G A. resolution 50/106. As the Secretary-General stated, "[o]f particular importance is the relationship of the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system with the business community. The impact of the private sector, in both developing and developed countries, is of growing importance and it would be timely to develop better means of consultation between the United Nations and the business community. Such consultations would enable the concerns and interests of both sides to be more fully understood. The International Chamber of Commerce and the World Economic Forum have both taken the initiative to establish mechanisms for this purpose and encourage their use by other members of the United Nations family. The Secretary-General plans to utilise these mechanisms." A/51/950, para. 214.

<sup>26</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 51/59, 52/182, 52/209, and 54/175; E S C resolution 1997/61.

<sup>27</sup> The scope of the term "civil society" seems to be defined broadly in the resolutions of the principal organs to include non-governmental organizations, businesses and corporations. See e.g., G A resolutions 50/107, 52/80, 53/115, 53/183.. In one instance, the Assembly recognized the role of civil society, "including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the right to development ..." G A resolution 54/175.

world events, especially the major conferences convened by the United Nations in the 1990s, has acquired true meaning, with tens of thousands of organizations from around the world being involved, from the local to the global level, in the identification of priorities and issues and avenues for addressing them.

“212. Virtually no area of United Nations involvement, either at the policy or operational level, has been left unchanged by this process. Overall, civil society's increasing influence is contributing to a process of enlargement of international cooperation and spurring the United Nations system and other intergovernmental structures towards greater transparency and accountability and closer linkages between national and international levels of decision-making and implementing.”<sup>28</sup>

15. Increase in the importance of non-state actors in the work of the United Nations became particularly evident given the increase in the participation of non-governmental organizations over past decades:

“The statistics relating to the number of non-governmental organizations (NGO) granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council are equally telling: 41 in 1948; 377 in 1968; and over 1,200 at present. At the operational level, the relationship between non-State actors and United Nations funds and programmes with operational responsibilities, such as UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and WFP, has evolved significantly in the last two decades and important networks of contacts have been established. The operational competence, flexibility and knowledge of local conditions of NGOs, as well as complementary resources which they themselves bring to humanitarian programmes, make NGOs key operational partners and implementing agents.”<sup>29</sup>

16. The focus on non-state actors is evident in another continuing trend during the period under review, namely, the use of panels and workshops by the Organization to bring together a variety of actors to address economic and social issues. For example, pursuant to requests by the Economic and Social Council<sup>30</sup> for the opening of the debates of the Commission for Social Development to experts and the main actors of civil society, the Secretariat, in preparing for the 1998 session of the Commission, organized, the previous year, two workshops in which independent experts from all regions and observers from the United Nations system and the civil society participated.<sup>31</sup>

17. As in the past, the decisions of the principal organs with regard to the fields of Article 55 (a) and (b) continued present an assessment of the international community on the state of international economic and social development, and identify problems therein. For example, the principal organs identified the seriousness of problems posed by corruption in their capacity to endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development.<sup>32</sup> The Assembly pointed out the decline in real terms in the overall level of official development assistance to developing countries.<sup>33</sup> The Assembly, by its resolution 51/64, expressed its concern at global expansion of illicit demand for, production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances the growing violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking activities and other criminal activities.<sup>34</sup> The Assembly noted the continuing debt and debt servicing problems indebted developing countries.<sup>35</sup> The Council noted its concern at the large numbers of children who had become disabled physically or mentally, or both, as a consequence, *inter alia*, of poverty, disease, disasters, land mines and all forms of violence.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>28</sup> A/51/950, para. 208, 210 and 212.

<sup>29</sup> A/51/950, para. 211.

<sup>30</sup> See E S C resolutions 1995/60 and 1996/7.

<sup>31</sup> See E/CN.5/1998/4. See also E/CN.5/1998/5.

<sup>32</sup> G A resolution 51/59; E S C resolution 1995/14.

<sup>33</sup> G A resolution 50/91.

<sup>34</sup> See also G A resolution 52/92.

<sup>35</sup> G A resolutions 50/92.

<sup>36</sup> E S C resolution 1997/20.

18. As in the past, the United Nations served as a forum for the initiation, development and/or promotion of a number of instruments aimed at achieving consensus in a number of areas, normally elaborated by their subsidiary bodies, within the framework of a United Nations Conference, or by intergovernmental meetings held outside the rubric of the Organization. Instruments, declarations, guidelines and the like were usually adopted or endorsed by the principal Organs, in particular by the General Assembly. These included the Agenda for Development,<sup>37</sup> the Declaration of Intent on Gender, Science and Technology for Sustainable Human Development,<sup>38</sup> the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>39</sup> the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security,<sup>40</sup> the Brussels Declaration and the Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>41</sup> the Global Program of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment,<sup>42</sup> the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors,<sup>43</sup> and the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.<sup>44</sup> At the end of the period under review, the Assembly decided to refer the draft United Nations Millennium Declaration to the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, to be held from 6 to 8 September 2000, for its consideration.<sup>45</sup>

19. Many of these documents arose from the work of conferences convened by the General Assembly. In one instance, recalling its resolution 47/188 by which it had decided to establish the 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, welcomed the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification by a large number of States.<sup>46</sup> The principal organs also took note of or adopted the Programme of Action adopted by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States,<sup>47</sup> the World Food Summit Plan of Action,<sup>48</sup> the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the Conference on Human Settlements,<sup>49</sup> The principal organs also worked to elaborate a number of guideline instruments, such as the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials,<sup>50</sup> the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,<sup>51</sup> and the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System.<sup>52</sup>

20. Other consensus documents, for example, the development of a harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemicals for implementing chapter 19 of Agenda 21<sup>53</sup> and of a globally harmonized criteria for the classification of flammable, explosive and reactive materials,<sup>54</sup> the elements of

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<sup>37</sup> G A resolution 51/240.

<sup>38</sup> E S C resolution 1995/4 and annex.

<sup>39</sup> G A resolution 50/161.

<sup>40</sup> G A resolution 51/60.

<sup>41</sup> G A resolution 55/279.

<sup>42</sup> G A resolution 51/189 (on the recommendation of E S C resolution. 1996/1).

<sup>43</sup> E S C resolution 1997/39, annex.

<sup>44</sup> G A resolution 51/189 (on the recommendation of E S C resolution 1996/1).

<sup>45</sup> G A resolution 54/282.

<sup>46</sup> G A resolution 50/112.

<sup>47</sup> G A resolution 51/70.

<sup>48</sup> G A resolution 51/171.

<sup>49</sup> G A resolution 51/177

<sup>50</sup> G A resolution 51/59 (on the recommendation of E S C resolution 1996/8).

<sup>51</sup> G A resolution 54/132. See also E S C resolution 1999/29.

<sup>52</sup> E S C resolution 1997/30.

<sup>53</sup> E S C resolution 1995/5.

<sup>54</sup> E S C resolution 1995/6.

responsible crime prevention: standards and norms,<sup>55</sup> the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.<sup>56</sup> At its 1999 session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to consider the desirability of formulating United Nations standards in the field of mediation and restorative justice, which are intended to ensure fairness in the resolution of minor offences.<sup>57</sup> Also during the period, the Assembly and the Council requested their subsidiary bodies to examine the question of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime, to discuss the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, and addressing illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea.<sup>58</sup>

21. In addition, the principal organs continued to reaffirm the importance of, and endeavoured to support the implementation of, agreements reached in the past, such as the Agenda 21,<sup>59</sup> the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,<sup>60</sup> the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,<sup>61</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>62</sup> the Use and application of the Declaration<sup>63</sup> of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,<sup>64</sup> the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>65</sup> the World Programme of Action<sup>66</sup> concerning Disabled Persons, and the Standard Rules<sup>67</sup> on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.<sup>68</sup>

22. In several instances, the principal organs decided to expand or revise other instruments, such as the guidelines<sup>69</sup> for consumer protection,<sup>70</sup> and the elaboration of complementary provisions for the Model Treaty on Extradition.<sup>71</sup> At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly took a decision with regard to enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development.<sup>72</sup>

23. The decisions of the principal organs served a number of purposes with regard to the objectives of Article 55 (a) and (b). The principal organs identified a number of new problems or challenges arising from changes within the global economic, social and technological landscape, including the liberalization of national and international economic and financial regimes and increasing globalization generally.<sup>73</sup> For example, the Council pointed out that the social and economic potential of emerging information and communication technologies was enormous, creating risks of marginalization from participation in the global economy for those without the capabilities to access, design, produce and use new products and service applications.<sup>74</sup> The General Assembly recognized the use of the Internet posed new opportunities

<sup>55</sup> E S C resolution 1997/33.

<sup>56</sup> G A resolution 52/86 and annex, as recommended by E S C resolution 1997/24.

<sup>57</sup> E S C resolution 1999/26.

<sup>58</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 54/126 and E S C resolution 1999/20.

<sup>59</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 52/184.

<sup>60</sup> G A resolution S-18/3, annex, reaffirmed in G A resolution 51/173.

<sup>61</sup> G A resolution 45/199, annex, reaffirmed in G A resolution 50/91.

<sup>62</sup> E S C resolution 1996/38.

<sup>63</sup> Adopted by G A resolution 40/34.

<sup>64</sup> E S C resolution 1996/14.

<sup>65</sup> G A resolution 51/176.

<sup>66</sup> Adopted in G A resolution 37/52.

<sup>67</sup> Adopted in G A resolution 48/96.

<sup>68</sup> G A resolution 54/121.

<sup>69</sup> Adopted in G A resolution 39/248.

<sup>70</sup> E S C resolution 1999/7.

<sup>71</sup> G A resolution 52/88.

<sup>72</sup> G A resolution 54/217.

<sup>73</sup> See G A resolutions 50/91.

<sup>74</sup> E S C resolution 1997/62.

and challenges to international cooperation in combating drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking.<sup>75</sup> In this same vein, the growth of criminal organizations and terrorist groups, and in particular the increasingly transnational links between them, was of particular concern to the United Nations. The growing and spreading violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking activities and other criminal activities, such as money laundering and illicit traffic of arms and precursors and essential chemicals.<sup>76</sup>

24. The decisions of the principal organs continued to establish objectives and priorities for international action in the economic and social fields, and the principals and mechanisms by which to achieve them at the national, regional and international levels. For example, it will be recalled that the principal organs had identified the eradication of poverty as a special area of priority.<sup>77</sup> During the period, the General Assembly maintained poverty eradication as a priority area of action.<sup>78</sup> The priority was made manifest at the highest political levels in commitments made at major conferences, such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Summit for Social Development, as well as the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). The principal organs set out the guiding principles for activities during the Year to Eradicate Poverty, to include:

“(a) A sustained, collective commitment and effort shall be mounted by Governments, local administrations, all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, business and corporations, supported by the international community, including the United Nations system and relevant subregional, regional and other international organizations, and anti-poverty strategies and programmes shall be designed, implemented and monitored with the full and effective participation of people living in poverty;

“(b) Measures shall be adopted to ensure that people living in poverty have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to escape from poverty, and policies shall be adopted to ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-rearing, widowhood, disability and old age;

“(c) Access of all people living in poverty to basic social services shall be ensured, as well as their participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of society;

“(d) Women shall be given the economic and social opportunities to contribute to development, and anti-poverty strategies and programmes shall be designed with a gender dimension;

“(e) Targeted programmes shall be developed to meet the special needs of particular social and demographic groups, including young people, disadvantaged older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of persons;

“(f) The international community shall provide continued and effective support to broad-based development in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries;

“(g) The efforts of the United Nations system to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty should be well coordinated in order to ensure that activities of relevant organizations are complementary and cost-effective.”<sup>79</sup>

The Declaration on a Culture of Peace, adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, defined

<sup>75</sup> G A resolution 52/92.

<sup>76</sup> See G A resolutions 52/92 and 53/115.

<sup>77</sup> See Supplement No. 8, under this Article, para. 9. See also G A resolutions 48/183 and 49/110.

<sup>78</sup> See e.g., E S C resolution 1997/60.

<sup>79</sup> G A resolution 50/107.

and reiterated a number of priorities in order to promote the goals of education, the development of children, the participation of women, the eradication of poverty, and, with regard to the promotion of sustainable economic and social development generally:

- “(a) Undertake comprehensive actions on the basis of appropriate strategies and agreed targets to eradicate poverty through national and international efforts, including through international cooperation;
- “(b) Strengthen the national capacity for implementation of policies and programmes designed to reduce economic and social inequalities within nations through, *inter alia*, international cooperation;
- “(c) Promote effective and equitable development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries through, *inter alia*, debt relief;
- “(d) Reinforce actions at all levels to implement national strategies for sustainable food security, including the development of actions to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of resources from all sources, including through international cooperation, such as resources coming from debt relief;
- “(e) Undertake further efforts to ensure that the development process is participatory and that development projects involve the full participation of all;
- “(f) Include a gender perspective and empowerment of women and girls as an integral part of the development process;
- “(g) Include in development strategies special measures focusing on needs of women and children as well as groups with special needs;
- “(h) Strengthen, through development assistance in post-conflict situations, rehabilitation, reintegration and reconciliation processes involving all engaged in conflicts;
- “(i) Incorporate capacity-building in development strategies and projects to ensure environmental sustainability, including preservation and regeneration of the natural resource base;
- “(j) Remove obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development.”

25. In other examples, the Assembly also sought to respond to the urgent need, at the highest political level, to marshal the global consensus and commitment required for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.<sup>80</sup> It reaffirmed the objective of promoting greater transparency and openness in international financial markets and promoting growth.<sup>81</sup> The Assembly and the Council expressed the high priority accorded to its work in the field of crime prevention,<sup>82</sup> and in particular on action against organization transnational crime,<sup>83</sup> and to the focus on the needs of least developed countries.<sup>84</sup> The principal organs drew the attention of Member States to the importance of targeted research and development and the application of science and technology in helping to satisfy basic needs.<sup>85</sup> The principal organs also made recommendations to Member States regarding areas of priority effort at the national level. For example, the General Assembly made a recommendation that donor countries give greater priority to disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation in their assistance programmes and budgets.<sup>86</sup>

26. The principal organs also continued to take decisions in a number of fields with a view to financing for economic development.<sup>87</sup> In particular, the Assembly, recognizing the need to further explore ways of generating new public and private financial resources to complement development

<sup>80</sup> G A resolution 50/109.

<sup>81</sup> G A resolution 50/91.

<sup>82</sup> G A resolution 50/146.

<sup>83</sup> G A resolution 52/85; E S C resolution 1997/22.

<sup>84</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 50/117, 51/169 and 52/182, IV.

<sup>85</sup> E S C resolution 1995/4.

<sup>86</sup> G A resolution 50/117.

<sup>87</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 53/173.

efforts, adopted resolution 52/179 to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of the Assembly to undertake an in-depth examination of all inputs requested in the resolution, with a view to formulating a report containing recommendations on the form, scope and agenda of, *inter alia*, a summit, international conference, special session of the General Assembly or other appropriate high-level international intergovernmental forum on financing for development to further the global partnership for development, to be convened not later than the year 2001. At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly decided to convene in 2001 a high-level intergovernmental event of political decision makers, at least at the ministerial level, on financing for development, that would address national, international and systemic issues relating to financing for development in the context of globalization and interdependence, and the mobilization of financial resources for the full implementation of the outcome of major conferences and summits organized by the United Nations during the 1990s and the implementation of the Agenda for Development, in particular with regard to poverty eradication.<sup>88</sup> By decisions, as in the past, the principal organs called upon a number of entities, such as States, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to help mobilize the necessary financial resources towards the implementation of specific initiatives or for development action in the fields of economic and social development.<sup>89</sup> Certain provisions were geared towards the mobilization of contributions for various voluntary funds.<sup>90</sup>

27. As in the past, the decisions of the principle organs contained recommendations for action at the national level.<sup>91</sup> For example, with regard to the eradication of poverty, the Assembly recommended that all States (a) Develop a precise definition and assessment of absolute poverty; (b) Elaborate the measurements, criteria and indicators for determining the extent and distribution of absolute poverty; (c) Formulate or strengthen, as a matter of urgency, national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context; (d) Increase public efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and to reduce overall poverty substantially by, *inter alia*, formulating or strengthening and implementing national poverty eradication plans to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels; (e) Attach particular attention, in the context of national plans, to employment creation as a means of eradicating poverty, while also giving appropriate consideration to health and education, assigning a higher priority to basic social services, generating household income and promoting access to productive assets and economic opportunities.<sup>92</sup> In the field of commodities, the Assembly made recommendations emphasizing the need for developing countries heavily dependent on primary commodities of continuing to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and enhance competitiveness.<sup>93</sup> In a number of instances, the principal organs urged the signing, ratification or accession to various international conventions,<sup>94</sup> and urged Member States to review legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies and practices, as well as, in the absence of existing laws, enact legislation proscribing such conduct as violence against women.<sup>95</sup> In another instance, the Council encouraged Member States to consider regulatory approaches to the civilian use of firearms including elements such as regulation relating to firearm safety and storage, appropriate penalties or sanctions for offences involving misuse or unlawful possession of firearms, programmes, such as mitigation or exemption from

<sup>88</sup> G A resolution 54/196.

<sup>89</sup> See *e.g.*, G A resolution 50/154.

<sup>90</sup> See *e.g.*, G A resolutions 50/156 and 50/163.

<sup>91</sup> See *Volume IV, Supplement No. 9*, under Article 13 (1)(b)&(b) for treatment of the authority to make recommendations of the General Assembly, and under Article 62(1) for the corresponding authority of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>92</sup> G A resolution 50/107.

<sup>93</sup> G A resolution 51/169.

<sup>94</sup> G A resolution 51/59.

<sup>95</sup> See *e.g.*, G A resolution 51/65.E S C resolution 1996/12.

criminal responsibility designed to encourage citizens to surrender illegal, unsafe or unwanted firearms or a record-keeping system for firearms.<sup>96</sup>

28. The Organization continued to emphasize the importance of regional initiatives, such as the promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development,<sup>97</sup> the establishment of a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development in Central America,<sup>98</sup> economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),<sup>99</sup> and the integration of economies in transition into the world economy.<sup>100</sup> The principal organs continued to focus on promoting development in Africa particularly.<sup>101</sup>

29. During the review period, the principal organs continued to take decisions with a view to building capacities within developing countries as well as countries in transition, at their request, through technical assistance and cooperation, advisory services, and other operational activities to Member States,<sup>102</sup> at their request.<sup>103</sup> The Agenda for Development identified operational activities as an important feature of the United Nations for development in the field, whose fundamental characteristics should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary, and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of the developing countries in a flexible manner.<sup>104</sup> The Assembly, at its fiftieth session, reiterated that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process.<sup>105</sup>

30. The principal organs continued to take decisions towards increasing the efficiency and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system through, *inter alia*, making recommendations regarding the simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures as well as the need to facilitation of national execution.<sup>106</sup> The Council provided, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162, the United Nations funds and programmes with policy guidance on operational activities for development, so as to ensure that the policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, were appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis.<sup>107</sup> The United Nations Development Assistance Framework entered in a pilot phase with the aim of providing a country-driven, collaborative and coherent response by the United Nations system to achieve greater

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<sup>96</sup> E S C resolution 1997/28.

<sup>97</sup> G A resolution 54/225.

<sup>98</sup> G A resolution 50/132.

<sup>99</sup> G A resolution 50/58 E.

<sup>100</sup> G A resolution 51/175.

<sup>101</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 50/131, 50/147, 51/32, 52/208.

<sup>102</sup> For discussion of the role of the Council in providing such services, see *Supplement No. 9, vol. 4*, under the study for Article 66(2).

<sup>103</sup> The Council, during the period review, stressed that the basic characteristics of operational activities for development should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development. See G A resolution 53/192; E S C resolution 1997/59.

<sup>104</sup> G A resolution 51/240, annex, para. 238.

<sup>105</sup> G A resolution 50/120.

<sup>106</sup> See G A resolution 50/120; E S C resolution 1996/42. In this regard, several initiatives were undertaken during the period under review. For example, in response to General Assembly's mandate in resolution 50/120 to achieve in operational activities goal-oriented collaboration, programmatic coherence and mutual enforcement, the Secretary-General requested all funds and programmes to develop a single United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for ensuring that individual country programmes are based on common objectives and harmonized time-frames. In order to achieve goal-oriented collaboration, programmatic coherence and mutual reinforcement, the United Nations programmes of assistance would be formulated and presented with common objectives and time frame, and entailing collaborative programming and close consultation with governments. See A/53/226, paras. 72-77.

<sup>107</sup> E S C resolution 1995/51.

impact at the country level, consistent with and in support of national priorities expressed in country strategies.<sup>108</sup> The principal organs also took steps to strengthen the resident coordinator system, and to ensure well-functioning, participatory and active country teams, and full consultation with the Governments concerned.<sup>109</sup>

31. The range, diversity and complexity of operational activities had increased in response to the growing demands and diversity of situations facing the United Nations system,<sup>110</sup> and included institutional and human resource development in strategic sectors and areas of priority to enable developing countries to integrate better into the world economy; translation of internationally agreed goals and objectives emerging from conferences into concrete programmes at the country level; helping to establish social safety nets for the most vulnerable groups during periods of economic adjustment; and; responding to the new political, humanitarian and socio-economic needs in a growing number of countries. Technical assistance and services were offered in various forms.<sup>111</sup> For example, with regard to the problem of transnational organized crime, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the Commission on Crime Prevention for approval, with a view to developing practical models and guidelines for substantive and procedural legislation in order to assist, in particular, developing countries and countries in transition, upon request, in reviewing and evaluating their legislation and in planning and undertaking reforms, and to provide advisory services and technical assistance to requesting Member States in needs assessment, capacity-building and training.<sup>112</sup> The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Member States in the elaboration of national strategies, the elaboration or improvement of legislative and regulatory measures, and in the establishment or strengthening national capacities to prevent and control corruption.<sup>113</sup> In another instance, pursuant to its resolution 1994/22 requesting the Secretary-General to establish a database on technical assistance, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to initiate a project to establish a regional database on international training and technical assistance projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to provide interested Governments, international organizations and other entities with information on international projects.<sup>114</sup> The Council also requested the Secretary-General to explore ways and means of developing a programme of continuing education for criminal justice administrators and of public education and awareness-building in relation to the links between firearms in civilian use and the unacceptable levels of violence in cities, communities and families, and to disseminate that information in order to encourage Member States to undertake similar programmes.<sup>115</sup>

32. The principal organs made recommendations with regard to capacity building by organizations and bodies within the United Nations development system – in particular UNDP<sup>116</sup> -- as well as outside, with regard to such fields as consumer protection,<sup>117</sup> administration,<sup>118</sup> population and development,<sup>119</sup> administration of criminal justice,<sup>120</sup> human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS),<sup>121</sup> malaria and diarrhoeal diseases,<sup>122</sup> action against corruption,<sup>123</sup> industrial

<sup>108</sup> G A resolution 53/192.

<sup>109</sup> G A resolution 53/192; E S C resolution 1999/6.

<sup>110</sup> A/53/226, paras. 2 and 4.

<sup>111</sup> E S C resolution 1997/2 and 1997/27.

<sup>112</sup> E S C resolution 1995/11.

<sup>113</sup> G A resolution 51/59.

<sup>114</sup> E S C resolution 1995/12.

<sup>115</sup> E S C resolution 1997/28.

<sup>116</sup> See G A resolution 51/197.

<sup>117</sup> E S C resolution 1995/53.

<sup>118</sup> G A resolutions 50/225 and 53/201.

<sup>119</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 50/124; E S C resolution 1995/55 and 1996/2.

<sup>120</sup> G A resolution 51/63; E S C resolution 1996/13.

<sup>121</sup> E S C resolution 1997/52.

<sup>122</sup> E S C resolution 1995/63.

<sup>123</sup> G A resolution 51/59.

development,<sup>124</sup> international migration and development,<sup>125</sup> science and technology,<sup>126</sup> and international trade and development.<sup>127</sup>

33. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution,<sup>128</sup> the Council continued to hold an operational activity segment during each session.<sup>129</sup> For example, the 1996 high-level meeting of the operational activities segment focused on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development, at all levels, including the field level.<sup>130</sup> In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162, the Council provided to the United Nations funds and programmes policy guidance on operational activities for development, so as to ensure that the policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis.<sup>131</sup>

34. In addition, the principal organs also continued to promote economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.<sup>132</sup> While the principal organs made reference to cooperation among developing countries relatively less frequently, such cooperation nevertheless figured prominently in the policy framework of the period.<sup>133</sup>

35. During the period under review, the Organization continued to mobilize and coordinate humanitarian assistance, in partnership with national, United Nations system<sup>134</sup> and other international actors.<sup>135</sup> As in the past, assistance extended to cases of natural disasters and humanitarian crises, although, as was the case during the previous period under review, the principal organs noted<sup>136</sup> the growing occurrence of complex humanitarian emergencies, i.e., large-scale humanitarian crises in complicated political and military environments, often in the context of internal conflicts. Thus, initiatives in this field included support, including special economic assistance, to individual countries or regions, such as Afghanistan, Haiti, Central America, Tajikistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Kazakhstan, Monserrat, Somalia, Djibouti, and Central African Countries receiving refugees, Liberia and Lebanon and States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.<sup>137</sup> The principal organs also took decisions to promote international cooperation to reduce the impact of more generalized relief needs, such as the impact of the El Nino phenomenon,<sup>138</sup> and the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.<sup>139</sup>

36. Within the context of the report of the Secretary-General on “Renewing the United Nations, a programme for reform,”<sup>140</sup> the General Assembly decided to designate the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, who would, *inter alia*, retain responsibility for coordination of natural disaster relief, and to transfer to the United Nations Development Programme the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for operational activities for natural disaster

<sup>124</sup> G A resolutions 51/170 and 53/177.

<sup>125</sup> E S C resolution 1997/2.

<sup>126</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 50/101 and 52/184; E S C resolutions 1995/4 and 1995/54.

<sup>127</sup> G A resolution 53/170.

<sup>128</sup> Initiated under G A resolution 45/264 as part of the effort to strengthen the capacity of the Economic and Social Council. See *Repertory, Supplement No. 8*, under this study, para. 27.

<sup>129</sup> See e.g., E S C resolution 1998/42.

<sup>130</sup> E S C resolution 1995/50.

<sup>131</sup> E S C resolution 1995/51.

<sup>132</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 50/119, 52/205 and 54/226. See also G A resolutions 50/102 and 52/205.

<sup>133</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 51/240, annex, paras. 76-78.

<sup>134</sup> Four other United Nations entities -- UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and UNDP -- have primary roles in protection and providing assistance in humanitarian crises.

<sup>135</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 50/57, 51/194; E S C resolutions 1995/56, 1996/33

<sup>136</sup> G A resolution 53/124.

<sup>137</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 51/8, 51/30, 52/169, 54/144, and 54/196; E S C resolutions 1995/42, 1995/43, 1999/4, 1999/11

<sup>138</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 53/185 and 54/220.

<sup>139</sup> G A resolution 50/134.

<sup>140</sup> A/51/950 and Add. 1-7.

mitigation, prevention and preparedness.<sup>141</sup> The Assembly also endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish an inter-agency task force and inter-agency secretariat for disaster reduction, under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs for the initial period of the biennium 2000-2001.<sup>142</sup> Pursuant to the adoption of the Secretary-Generals programme for reform, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was established, replacing the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

37. Also in response to the number and growing magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the Assembly continued to examine the participation of volunteer "White Helmets"<sup>143</sup> in activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation as an operational partner of the United Nations Volunteers, and in support of immediate relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development activities.<sup>144</sup> In addition, the Organization continued to support international initiatives taking place principally outside the United Nations forum, such as outcome of the International Conference on Early Warning Systems for the Reduction of Natural Disasters convened, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, at Potsdam, Germany, in September 1998.<sup>145</sup>

38. In the context of protection of and assistance to refugees, the principal organs continued to review the activities<sup>146</sup> and the continuation<sup>147</sup> of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, take decisions<sup>148</sup> with respect to the international humanitarian order which reflected its past decisions,<sup>149</sup> as well as specific issues regarding refugees, returnees and displaced persons, such as assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors<sup>150</sup> as well as assistance for refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa,<sup>151</sup> The Assembly continued to circumscribe the parameters of such assistance:

*"The General Assembly,*

...

*"2. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees, and reiterates the need for Governments to continue to facilitate the effective exercise of this function;*

...

*"7. Emphasizes that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfill its mandated functions, and calls upon States, the Office of the High Commissioner and all interested parties to turn concentrated attention towards revitalizing old partnerships and building new ones in support of the international refugee protection system;*

<sup>141</sup> G A resolution 52/12 B.

<sup>142</sup> G A resolution 54/219.

<sup>143</sup> G A resolution 49/139 B.

<sup>144</sup> G A resolutions 50/19, 52/171 and 54/98, E S C resolution 1995/44.

<sup>145</sup> See G A resolution 53/185.

<sup>146</sup> G A resolutions 50/152, 51/75, 52/103, 53/125 and 54/146.

<sup>147</sup> G A resolution 52/104.

<sup>148</sup> See G A resolutions 51/74 and 53/124.

<sup>149</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 36/136, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 1983, 40/126, 42/120, 42/121, 43/129 and 43/130. 45/101, 45/102, 47/106 and 49/170.

<sup>150</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 51/73 and 53/122.

<sup>151</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 54/147.

“8. *Stresses* the importance of international solidarity and burden-sharing in reinforcing the international protection of refugees, urges all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to reducing the burden borne by States, in particular developing countries, that have received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations, especially in developing countries.”

39. As during the previous period, the principal organs continued to address problems pertaining to internally displaced persons.<sup>152</sup> For example, the Assembly welcomed the development by the representative of the Secretary-General, on the basis of his compilation and analysis of legal norms, of a comprehensive framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The Assembly welcomed the fact that the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons had made use of the Guiding Principles in his dialogue with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and requested him to continue his efforts in that regard.<sup>153</sup>

40. The Organization continued to promote the objectives of Article 55 (a) and (b) through activities involved in the observance of international days, years and decades on specific items, including the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in 1996, and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),<sup>154</sup> the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,<sup>155</sup> the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages in 1999,<sup>156</sup> the Follow-up to the International Year of the Family,<sup>157</sup> the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,<sup>158</sup> the International Year of Ecotourism in 2002,<sup>159</sup> the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,<sup>160</sup> the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations in 2001,<sup>161</sup> the International Year of Thanksgiving in 2000,<sup>162</sup> the International Year of Microcredit in 2005,<sup>163</sup> and the International Year of Mountains in 2002.<sup>164</sup> The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the UNESCO, Member States and other relevant organizations and bodies, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade, with a draft plan of action and possible time-frame for such a decade, on the basis of the outcomes of the World Education Forum and the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development.<sup>165</sup>

41. Proclamation of such initiatives usually aimed to promote awareness of a given problem or issue, as well as the adoption of measures, strategies, policies or programmes at the national level. In this light, it was recognized that celebration of such events could promote international cooperation and understanding.<sup>166</sup> In accordance with the guidelines for international years and anniversaries adopted in General Assembly decision 35/424 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, the Assembly,

<sup>152</sup> See G A resolutions 50/195, 52/130, and 54/167.

<sup>153</sup> G A resolution 54/167.

<sup>154</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 50/107, 51/178, and 54/232.

<sup>155</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 50/117 and 54/219.

<sup>156</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 50/141, 52/80 and 53/109; E S C resolution 1995/21.

<sup>157</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 50/142 and 54/124.

<sup>158</sup> See e.g., E S C resolution 1995/23.

<sup>159</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 53/200.

<sup>160</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 51/78 and 53/129.

<sup>161</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 53/22 and 54/113.

<sup>162</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 52/16; E S C resolution 1997/46.

<sup>163</sup> G A resolution 53/197.

<sup>164</sup> G A resolution 53/24.

<sup>165</sup> G A resolution 54/122.

<sup>166</sup> See e.g., E S C resolution 1997/45.

often with the assistance of the Council,<sup>167</sup> agreed upon the objectives of the observance, the principals to guide attainment of those objectives, a programme of activities during the period of observance and, in some cases, beyond, undertakings by Member States, as well as the mandate for implementation of such initiatives within the United Nations system, including the designation of focal points to work with counterparts within Governments and within elements of civil society.

42. As in the past, during the period under review, the principal organs continued to examine the restructuring and/or strengthening the United Nations development system,<sup>168</sup> including restructuring and revitalization of the subsidiary bodies of the principal organs,<sup>169</sup> the regional commissions of the Council,<sup>170</sup> United Nations programmes,<sup>171</sup> in particular in the United Nations international Drug Programme,<sup>172</sup> United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,<sup>173</sup> the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.<sup>174</sup> During the period under review, the Council initiated renewed cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions<sup>175</sup> with a "one-day" policy dialogue established by the Council brings together the Executive Heads of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in a unique dialogue with the membership of the Organization. The policy dialogue, together with the debate that takes place at the high-level segment with the participation of a growing number of ministers and senior officials from capitals, demonstrates that Member States wish the Council to play a distinct role in the macro- economic policy coordination dialogue. In order to further strengthen that role, the Council could be reliably assisted by panels of experts supported by an identifiable, dedicated secretariat which would facilitate consideration of timely and relevant issues.<sup>176</sup> Convening specialized panels on particular subjects would allow the Council to secure the advice of leading experts.

43. The Secretary-General, in the context of his report on reform,<sup>177</sup> proposed a number of initiatives to strengthen the work of the organization in the fields of Article 55.<sup>178</sup> For example, the Secretary-General outlined a number of initiatives to be undertaken to strengthen the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements, and, in that context, took note of the general thrust of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements, proposing actions to be taken by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The Assembly, in addition, expressed its support for the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements.<sup>179</sup> The Secretary-General also outlined several initiatives for reform of the Secretariat in the economic and social field,<sup>180</sup> and

<sup>167</sup> However, by its resolution 53/199 – adopted by recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/1 – the Assembly decided that, starting from 1999, proposals for the proclamation of international years should be submitted directly to the Assembly for consideration and action, unless the Assembly decided to bring them to the attention of the Economic and Social Council for evaluation.

<sup>168</sup> See G A resolution 50/227 and 52/12 B; E S C. resolutions 1998/46; E S C resolutions 1996/43, 1998/46, 1998/47, 1998/49 and 1999/1. Also, see the Agenda for Development, G A resolution 51/240, section III.

<sup>169</sup> See E S C resolutions 1995/60, 1996/7, 1998/46 and 1999/8. For further discussion of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly, see *Supplement No. 9, vol. IV*, under the study for Articles 68 and 22, respectively.

<sup>170</sup> E S C resolutions 1997/4, 1997/5, 1997/54 and 1998/3.

<sup>171</sup> See G A resolutions 53/115, 53/242.

<sup>172</sup> G A resolutions 51/64 and 53/115.

<sup>173</sup> G A resolutions 50/146, 51/63 and 53/114,

<sup>174</sup> E S C resolution 1995/2.

<sup>175</sup> E S C resolutions 1996/43 and 1999/1.

<sup>176</sup> A/51/950, para. 131.

<sup>177</sup> A/51/950, paras. Chaps. B, C, D, E and G.

<sup>178</sup> Considered by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/12 B.

<sup>179</sup> G A resolution 53/242.

<sup>180</sup> A/51/950, paras. 138 -145.

within the United Nations development system generally, including the strengthening of the UNDP-managed Resident Coordinator System<sup>181</sup>, and the formulation of a single United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).<sup>182</sup>

## 2. THE FIELDS OF ACTION UNDER ARTICLE 55 (A) AND (B)

44. The areas ripe for action in promoting economic and social progress and development are reflected in the subject matter of the decisions of the principle organs. In the field of cultural cooperation, the principal organs took decisions with regard to cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation,<sup>183</sup> protection of the heritage of indigenous people,<sup>184</sup> cultural development,<sup>185</sup> and the report of and cooperation with the World Commission on Culture and Development.<sup>186</sup> The principal organs took few decisions specifically bearing on international cooperation in the field of education. The organization continued to call for the elimination of illiteracy and the promotion of education for all as a necessary element for, *inter alia*, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.<sup>187</sup>

45. The principal organs continued to take decisions with regard to food and food supply<sup>188</sup> health,<sup>189</sup> human settlements and housing<sup>190</sup> with regard to the least developed countries,<sup>191</sup> international trade and

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<sup>181</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 152. In addition, the Secretary-General indicated the designation of a United Nations Development Group that would supersede the then-existing sectoral group on development operations and would be led by a reconstituted Executive Committee chaired by the convenor of the Executive Committee on Development Operations, the Administrator of UNDP. The membership of the UNDG Executive Committee would consist of the heads of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, with provision for the participation of other organizations in areas relevant to their interests. The UNDG Executive Committee would further sharpen the contributions that each entity was called upon to make to the overall objectives of the Organization while helping each entity avoid duplication and build on the work and capacities of other entities; serve as a policy development and management instrument geared to contributing to, and effecting, policy, administrative and operational decisions in each entity while at the same time strengthening decision-making processes in the Organization as a whole; provide a forum for heads of entities to consult on submissions to their governing bodies on both substantive and administrative matters that had implications for other members of the Group or for the Organization as a whole; contribute to strengthening policy coherence and cost-effectiveness by avoiding duplication and by pooling resources and services; share draft work programme and budget documents at a sufficiently early stage prior to their finalization and submission to the relevant governing bodies; and promote a more unified United Nations presence at the country level through, *inter alia*, providing a forum for concerted directives to Resident Coordinators and field representatives in order to ensure more integrated and consistent substantive support from headquarters for their work. *Ibid.*, para. 153 and Action 9..

<sup>182</sup> See *infra*, footnote 106.

<sup>183</sup> G A resolution 50/3.

<sup>184</sup> E S C resolution 1996/24.

<sup>185</sup> See *e.g.*, G A resolutions 52/197 and 53/184.

<sup>186</sup> G A resolution 51/179.

<sup>187</sup> See *e.g.*, G A resolutions 52/84 and 54/122.

<sup>188</sup> See *e.g.*, G A resolution 51/62: Measures for prevention of the smuggling of aliens; G A resolution 51/169: Commodities; G A resolution 51/171: Food and sustainable agricultural development; G A resolution 51/178: First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 51/184: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind; G A resolution 51/194: Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; S-19/2: Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21; G A resolution 52/29: Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; G A resolution 52/195: Women in development; G A resolution 52/200: International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; G A resolution 52/204: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community; G A resolution 53/243: Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace; G A resolution 54/33: Results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of "Oceans and seas"- international coordination and cooperation; G A resolution 54/175: The right to development; G A resolution 54/210: Women in development; G A resolution S-21/2, annex: Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; E S C resolution 1995/3: Target for world food programme pledges for the period; E S C resolution 1995/4: Science and technology for development; E S C resolution 1996/50: Integrated water resources development and management; E S C resolution 1997/62: Science and technology for development; E S C resolution 1999/3: Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme; E S C resolution 1999/7: Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption; E S C resolution 1999/17: Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action;

E S C resolution 1999/32: International regulation and control of trade in poppy seed; E S C resolution 1999/49: Report of the Secretary-General on issues related to the spatial planning of land (including minerals) and water resources; E S C resolution 1999/61: Science and technology for development; E S C resolution 1998/248: The Right to Food.

<sup>189</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 50/124: Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; G A resolution 50/9: Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency; G A resolution 50/26: Effects of atomic radiation; G A resolution 50/70: General and complete disarmament; G A resolution 50/103: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; G A resolution 50/107: Observance of the International Year of the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 50/119: Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation; G A resolution 50/126: Water supply and sanitation; G A resolution 50/128: Preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa; G A resolution 50/134: Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster; G A resolution 50/148: International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking; G A resolution 50/150: Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors; G A resolution 50/153: The rights of the child; G A resolution 51/65: Violence against women migrant workers; G A resolution 51/66: Traffic in women and girls; G A resolution 51/73: Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors; G A resolution 51/77: The rights of the child; G A resolution 51/78: International Decade of the World's Indigenous People; G A resolution 51/171: Food and sustainable agricultural development; G A resolution 51/178: First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 51/184: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind; G A resolution 51/202: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development; G A resolution 51/229, annex: Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses; G A resolution 52/99: Traditional or customary practices affecting health of women and girls.; G A resolution 53/26: Assistance in mine action; G A resolution 53/44: Effects of Atomic Radiation; G A resolution 53/127: The girl child; G A resolution 53/155: Right to development; G A resolution 53/243: Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace; G A resolution 54/34: Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal; G A resolution 54/97: Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster; G A resolution 54/114: Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion (problem of computers); G A resolution 54/127: Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives; G A resolution 54/132 and annex: International cooperation against the world drug problem; G A resolution 54/135: Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas; G A resolution 54/145: Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors; G A resolution 54/148: The girl child; G A resolution 54/150: International Decade of the World's Indigenous People; G A resolution 54/159: Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance; G A resolution 54/166: Protection of migrants; G A resolution 54/204: Business and development; G A resolution 54/211: Developing human resources for development; G A resolution 54/226: Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries; G A resolution 54/232: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 54/283: Review of the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects; G A resolution S-19/2, annex: Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; E S C resolution 1995/2: Joint and co-sponsored UN programme on HIV/AIDS; E S C resolution 1995/4: Science and technology for development ; E S C resolution 1995/46: Water supply and sanitation; E S C resolution 1995/62: Tobacco or health; E S C resolution 1995/63: Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases; E S C resolution 1997/28: Firearm Regulation for Purposes of Crime Prevention and Public Health and Safety; E S C resolution 1996/47: Report of Joint/Co-Sponsored UN Programme on HIV/AIDS; E S C resolution 1997/37: Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations; E S C resolution 1997/52: HIV/AIDS; E S C resolution 1998/17: Regulation of Explosives for the Purpose of Crime Prevention and Public Health and Safety; E S C resolution 1998/36: Malaria and Diarrhoeal Diseases, in Particular Cholera; E S C resolution 1998/41: Protection Against Products Harmful to Health and the Environment E S C resolution 1999/5: Poverty eradication and capacity-building; E S C resolution 1999/7: Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption; E S C resolution 1999/14: Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan; E S C resolution 1999/17 I: Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action; E S C resolution 1999/21: Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives; E S C resolution 1999/56: Tobacco or health; E S C resolution 1999/61: Science and technology for development.

<sup>190</sup> G A resolution 50/99: Commission on Human Settlements; G A resolution 50/100: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 50/105: Developing human resources for development; G A resolution 50/153: The rights of the child; G A resolution 50/116: Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; G A resolution 50/100: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 51/62: Measures for prevention of the smuggling of aliens; G A resolution 51/77: The rights of the child; G A resolution 51/177: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 51/178: First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 51/183: Implementation

of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; G A resolution 51/194: Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; G A resolution 51/202: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development; G A resolution 51/240: Agenda for Development; G A resolution 52/25: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development; G A resolution 52/98: Traffic in women and girls; G A resolution 52/107: The rights of the child; G A resolution 52/190: Implementation of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 52/191: Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; G A resolution 52/192: Follow-up to the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements; G A resolution 52/193: First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 52/196: Developing human resources for development; G A resolution 53/180: Special session of the General Assembly on Habitat Agenda; G A resolution 53/198: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 53/242: Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements; G A resolution 54/132: International cooperation against the world drug problem; G A resolution 54/207: Preparations for the special session of the GA for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda; G A resolution 54/208: Implementation of the outcome of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 54/209: Follow-up to the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 54/210: Women in development; G A resolution S-19/2: Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; G A resolution S-21/2, annex: Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; E S C resolution 1998/7: Importance of population census activities for evaluation of progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development E S C resolution 1999/7: Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption E S C decision 1995/259: Promoting the realization of the right to adequate housing E S C decision 1996/290 regarding "Forced evictions".

<sup>191</sup> G A resolution 50/47: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-eighth session; G A resolution 50/91: Global financial integration: challenges and opportunities; G A resolution 50/92: Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries; G A resolution 50/95: International trade and development; G A resolution 50/97: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries; G A resolution 50/98: Ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; G A resolution 50/101: Science and technology for development; G A resolution 50/103: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; G A resolution 50/107: Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 50/112: Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa; G A resolution 51/178: First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 51/202: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development; G A resolution 51/64: International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking; G A resolution 51/165: Net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries; G A resolution 51/167: International trade and development; G A resolution 51/169: Commodities; G A resolution 51/173: Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; G A resolution 51/178: First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 51/180: Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa; G A resolution 51/177: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 51/219: Programme planning; G A resolution 51/240: Agenda for Development; G A resolution 52/25: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development; G A resolution 52/183: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries; G A resolution 52/187: Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; G A resolution 52/190: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); G A resolution 52/195: Women in development; G A resolution 52/198: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; G A resolution 53/169: Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence; G A resolution 53/172: The financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries; G A resolution 53/174: Commodities; G A resolution 53/177: Industrial development cooperation; G A resolution 53/183: Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; G A resolution 54/141: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action; G A resolution 54/197: Towards a stable international financial system, responsive to the challenges of development, especially in the developing countries; G A resolution 54/198: International trade and development; G A resolution 54/199: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries; G A resolution 54/204: Business and development; G A resolution 54/224: Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; G A resolution 54/231: Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence; G A resolution 54/232: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 54/235: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; G A resolution 54/258A: Review of resource requirements for the High-Level International Intergovernmental

commodities,<sup>192</sup> and the human environment,<sup>193</sup> With regard to this latter, it should be noted that, as in the previous period of review, decisions touching on questions of the environment were integrated into a

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Event on Financing for Development and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; G A resolution 54/262: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing; G A resolution 54/282: Draft United Nations Millennium Declaration; G A resolution S-19/2: Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; G A resolution S-21/2: Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; E S C resolution 1995/4: Science and technology for development; E S C resolution 1995/54: Science and technology for development; E S C resolution 1996/45: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; E S C resolution 1998/39: Status of the Least Developed Countries; E S C resolution 1998/46: Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields; E S C resolution 1999/19: Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; E S C resolution 1999/40: Third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries; E S C resolution 1999/51: Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions; E S C resolution 1999/61: Science and technology for development; E S C resolution 1999/63: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements.

<sup>192</sup> G A resolution 50/47: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade on the work of its 28<sup>th</sup> session; G A resolution 50/48: United Nations Convention on Independent Guarantees and Stand-by Letters of Credit; G A resolution 50/94: Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa; G A resolution 50/95: International trade and development; G A resolution 50/96: Economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries; G A resolution 50/97: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries; G A resolution 50/98: Ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; G A resolution 50/103: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the E S C resolution 1990s; G A resolution 51/161: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the work of its 29<sup>th</sup> session; G A resolution 51/162: Model Law on Electronic Commerce adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; G A resolution 51/165: Net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries; G A resolution 51/167: International trade and development; G A resolution 51/168: Commodities; G A resolution 51/176: Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; G A resolution 52/157: Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the work of its 30<sup>th</sup> session; G A resolution 52/158: Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; G A resolution 52/181: Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries; G A resolution 52/182: International trade and development; G A resolution 53/4: Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba; G A resolution 53/169: Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence; G A resolution 53/170: International trade and development; G A resolution 53/171: Transit environment in landlocked Central Asian States; G A resolution 53/174: Commodities; G A resolution 54/175: The right to development; G A resolution 54/198: International trade and development; G A resolution 54/199: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries; G A resolution 54/200: Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries; G A resolution 54/226: Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries; G A resolution 54/231: Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence; G A resolution S-20/4: Measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem; E S C resolution 1995/18: Promoting the use of memoranda of understanding to facilitate cooperation between customs authorities and other competent administrations and the international trading community, including commercial carriers; E S C resolution 1996/43: Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions; E S C resolution 1997/3: Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; E S C resolution 1997/11: Establishment of the Committee on Transport of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; E S C resolution 1997/12: Establishment of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region; E S C resolution 1998/40: Declaring the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism; E S C resolution 1999/7: Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption; E S C resolution 1999/17: Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action; E S C resolution 1999/31: Lucknow Accord on the Adoption of Uniform Measures to Control International Trade in Precursors and Other Chemicals Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (E S C resolution 1999/28); and E S C resolution 1999/32: International regulation and control of trade in poppy seeds.

<sup>193</sup> G A resolution 50/6: Declaration on the occasion of the G A resolution 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations; G A resolution 50/12: Universal congress on the Panama Canal; G A resolution 50/13: The Olympic ideal; G A resolution 50/18: Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic; G A resolution 50/26: Effects of atomic radiation; G A resolution 50/27: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space; G A resolution 50/44: United Nations Decade of International Law; G A resolution 50/70 M: General and complete disarmament; G A resolution 50/95: International trade and development; G A resolution 50/103: Implementation of the programme of Action for the least developed countries for the 1990s; G A resolution 50/106: Business and development; G A resolution 50/110: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; G A resolution 50/111: Convention of Biological Diversity; G A resolution 50/113: Special session for the purpose

number of other fields.<sup>194</sup> The Organization examined problems such as the financial crisis and its impact on growth and development.<sup>195</sup>

46. The principal organs continued to take a considerable number of decisions with regard to the advancement of women, particularly the item on women in development. The importance of this field was emphasized throughout the period under review in the importance attached to mainstreaming and

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of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21; G A resolution 50/115: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind; G A resolution 50/117: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; G A resolution 51/121: Effects of atomic radiation; G A resolution 51/180: Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification particularly in Africa; G A resolution 51/181: Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21; G A resolution 51/182: Convention on Biological Diversity; G A resolution 51/184: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind; G A resolution 51/185: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; G A resolution 51/229: Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses; G A resolution 51/240: Agenda for development; G A resolution 52/26: Oceans and the law of the sea; G A resolution 52/27: Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Seabed Authority; G A resolution 52/38 E: General and complete disarmament; G A resolution 52/172: Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate, and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster; G A resolution 52/182: International trade and development; G A resolution 52/193: First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; G A resolution 52/199: Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Mankind; G A resolution 52/200: International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Nino phenomenon; G A resolution 52/201: Convention on Biological Diversity; G A resolution 52/209: Business and development; G A resolution 53/44: Effects of atomic radiation; G A resolution 53/185: International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Nino phenomenon; G A resolution 53/186: International institutional arrangements related to the environment and development; G A resolution 53/187: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; G A resolution 53/188: Implementation and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the 19<sup>th</sup> special session of the General Assembly; G A resolution 53/190: Convention on Biological Diversity; G A resolution 53/242: Report of the SG on environment and human settlements; G A resolution 53/243: Declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace; G A resolution 54/22: Convention on Biological Diversity; G A resolution 54/28: United Nations Decade of International Law; G A resolution 54/33: Results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of "Oceans and seas": international coordination and cooperation.; G A resolution 54/45: Question of Antarctica; G A resolution 54/67: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space; G A resolution 54/214: Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems; G A resolution 54/215: World Solar Programme E S C resolution 1996-2005; G A resolution 54/216: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; G A resolution 54/217: Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development; G A resolution 54/218: Implementation and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the 19<sup>th</sup> special session of the General Assembly; G A resolution 54/219: International Decade for National Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements; G A resolution 54/221: Convention on Biological Diversity; G A resolution 54/222: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind; G A resolution 54/223: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; G A resolution 54/233: International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters from relief to development; G A resolution S-22/2: Declaration and State of Progress and Initiatives for the Future Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; E S C resolution 1995/4: Science and technology for development; E S C resolution 1995/23: Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; E S C resolution 1995/46: Water supply and sanitation; E S C resolution 1995/47: International decade for natural disaster reduction; E S C resolution 1996/1: Implementation of Global Programme of Action for Protection of Marine Environment; E S C resolution 1996/10: The role of criminal law in the protection of the environment.; E S C resolution 1996/49: Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21; E S C resolution 1997/3: Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; E S C resolution 1997/12: Establishment of Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in Countries of ESCWA; E S C resolution 1997/45: Proclamation of an international year of mountains; E S C resolution 1997/G A resolution 53: Consumer protection; E S C resolution 1997/63: Programme of Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the Period E S C resolution 1998-2002; E S C resolution 1997/65: Establishment of an Intergovernmental Forum on Forests; E S C resolution 1998/40: Declaring the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism; E S C resolution 1998/41: Protection Against Products Harmful to Health and the Environment; E S C resolution 1998/46: Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields; E S C resolution 1999/7: Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption, annex; E S C resolution 1999/45: Beirut Declaration, annex; E S C resolution 1999/61: Science and technology for the environment; E S C resolution 1999/62: Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

<sup>194</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 51/169.

<sup>195</sup> G A resolution 52/180 and 53/172.

applying gender perspectives in the context of a number of fields of Article 55,<sup>196</sup> and generally into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.<sup>197</sup> Decisions in this field dealt with, *inter alia*, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>198</sup> Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>199</sup> Follow-up to the 4th Women's (Beijing) Conference,<sup>200</sup> Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas,<sup>201</sup> Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas,<sup>202</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women,<sup>203</sup> International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,<sup>204</sup> Practices affecting the health of women and girls,<sup>205</sup> Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> century",<sup>206</sup> Proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the UN Development Fund for Women,<sup>207</sup> Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia,<sup>208</sup> The role of the UN Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women,<sup>209</sup> Traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls,<sup>210</sup> Traffic in women and girls,<sup>211</sup> UN Development Fund for Women,<sup>212</sup> Violence against women migrant workers,<sup>213</sup> Women in development,<sup>214</sup> and Women in rural areas,<sup>215</sup> Action to Combat International Trafficking in Women and Children,<sup>216</sup> implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development,<sup>217</sup> the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action,<sup>218</sup> the elimination of Violence Against Women,<sup>219</sup> the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,<sup>220</sup> the Medium-Term Plan for the Advancement of Women, 1996-2001,<sup>221</sup> the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>222</sup> Palestinian women,<sup>223</sup> preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century,"<sup>224</sup> the

<sup>196</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 52/209, 53/155, 53/198 ; E S C resolutions 1995/4, 1998/4, 1999/5.

<sup>197</sup> E S C resolutions 1997/2 and 1998/43.

<sup>198</sup> G A resolution 51/68 and 54/137.

<sup>199</sup> G A resolution 54/4.

<sup>200</sup> G A resolution 50/203, 51/69, 52/231, 53/120, 54/141.

<sup>201</sup> G A resolution 50/165.

<sup>202</sup> G A resolution 54/135.

<sup>203</sup> G A resolution 54/134.

<sup>204</sup> G A resolution 50/163.

<sup>205</sup> G A resolution 53/117.

<sup>206</sup> G A resolution 54/142.

<sup>207</sup> G A resolution 50/162.

<sup>208</sup> G A resolution 50/192.

<sup>209</sup> G A resolution 50/166.

<sup>210</sup> G A resolution 52/99 and 54/133.

<sup>211</sup> G A resolution 50/167, 51/66 and 53/116.

<sup>212</sup> G A resolution 54/136.

<sup>213</sup> G A resolution 50/168 and 54/138.

<sup>214</sup> G A resolution 50/104 and 52/195.

<sup>215</sup> G A resolution 52/193.

<sup>216</sup> E S C resolution 1998/20.

<sup>217</sup> E S C resolution 1998/26.

<sup>218</sup> E S C resolution 1998/2, 1999/17.

<sup>219</sup> E S C resolution 1996/12.

<sup>220</sup> E S C resolution 1998/48 and 1999/54.

<sup>221</sup> E S C resolution 1996/34.

<sup>222</sup> E S C resolution 1999/13.

<sup>223</sup> E S C resolution 1995/30, 1997/16 and 1999/15.

<sup>224</sup> E S C resolution 1999/50.

situation of women and girls in Afghanistan,<sup>225</sup> and the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002–2005.<sup>226</sup>

47. In the social field, the principal organs took a number of general decisions towards the promotion of social development<sup>227</sup> and the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.<sup>228</sup> With regard to more specific issues of social development and social integration, many of which were identified in the Programme of Action for the World Summit<sup>229</sup> the principal organs continued to put considerable emphasis on solutions to the decisions in the field of crime and criminal justice dealing with areas such as the UN African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,<sup>230</sup> transnational Organized Crime,<sup>231</sup> the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto,<sup>232</sup> implementation of Naples Political Declaration Against Organized Crime,<sup>233</sup> the Follow-Up to Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan Against Organized Transnational Crime,<sup>234</sup> measures for prevention of the smuggling of aliens,<sup>235</sup> criminal justice action to combat smuggling of illegal migrants,<sup>236</sup> action against illegal trafficking in migrants including by sea,<sup>237</sup> action to combat international trafficking in women and children,<sup>238</sup> action to promote cooperation and the functioning of the clearing house on international projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,<sup>239</sup> activities of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives,<sup>240</sup> administration of juvenile justice,<sup>241</sup> action against corruption,<sup>242</sup> international cooperation against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions,<sup>243</sup> prevention of corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds,<sup>244</sup> development and implementation of mediation and restorative justice measures in criminal justice,<sup>245</sup> effective crime prevention<sup>246</sup> elements of Responsible Crime Prevention: Standards and Norms,<sup>247</sup> firearm Regulation for Purposes of Crime Prevention and Public Health and Safety,<sup>248</sup> guidelines for prevention of urban crime,<sup>249</sup> international cooperation and assistance in management of the criminal justice system : computerization of criminal justice operations and the development, analysis and policy use of crime and criminal justice information,<sup>250</sup> international cooperation in criminal matters,<sup>251</sup> measures on the prevention and control of

<sup>225</sup> E S C resolution 1998/9 and 1999/14.

<sup>226</sup> E S C resolution 1999/16.

<sup>227</sup> G A resolution 54/262; E S C resolution 1995/60.

<sup>228</sup> G A resolutions 50/161, 51/202 52/25 and 54/23; E S C resolutions 1996/7, 1997/56.

<sup>229</sup> A/CONF.166/9 of 19 April 1995.

<sup>230</sup> G A resolution 50/147, 52/89 and 54/130.

<sup>231</sup> G A resolution 53/111; E S C resolution 1998/14.

<sup>232</sup> G A resolutions 52/85 and 54/126; E S C resolution 1999/20.

<sup>233</sup> E S C resolution 1996/27.

<sup>234</sup> E S C resolution 1997/22.

<sup>235</sup> G A resolution 51/62.

<sup>236</sup> E S C resolution 1995/10.

<sup>237</sup> E S C resolution 1998/19.

<sup>238</sup> E S C resolution 1998/20.

<sup>239</sup> E S C resolution 1999/24.

<sup>240</sup> E S C resolution 1999/21.

<sup>241</sup> E S C resolution 1996/13 and 1999/28.

<sup>242</sup> G A resolutions 51/59 and 54/128; E S C resolutions 1995/14, 1998/16, 1999/22.

<sup>243</sup> G A resolutions 51/191 and 53/176; E S C resolutions 1996/51 and 1997/25.

<sup>244</sup> G A resolution 54/205.

<sup>245</sup> E S C resolution 1999/26.

<sup>246</sup> E S C resolution 1999/25.

<sup>247</sup> E S C resolution 1997/33.

<sup>248</sup> E S C resolutions 1996/28, 1997/28 and 1998/18.

<sup>249</sup> E S C resolution 1995/9.

<sup>250</sup> E S C resolution 1996/11.

<sup>251</sup> G A resolutions 52/88 and 53/112; E S C resolution 1997/26.

illicit trafficking in motor vehicles,<sup>252</sup> measures to prevent illicit international trafficking in children and to establish penalties appropriate to such offences,<sup>253</sup> the Ninth<sup>254</sup> and Tenth<sup>255</sup> United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, penal reform,<sup>256</sup> strengthening the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,<sup>257</sup> technical cooperation and international advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice,<sup>258</sup> the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment,<sup>259</sup> the UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,<sup>260</sup> and the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security.<sup>261</sup>

48. The principal organs also continued to place considerable emphasis on international cooperation in the drug control field, with respect to *inter alia*, international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking,<sup>262</sup> drug control,<sup>263</sup> the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,<sup>264</sup> Anti-Drug Strategy in the Americas,<sup>265</sup> the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation Against Illicit Narcotic Drugs,<sup>266</sup> the cohesive strategy to combat drug abuse,<sup>267</sup> control of precursors and their substitutes used in illicit manufacture of controlled substances,<sup>268</sup> cooperation between customs authorities,<sup>269</sup> demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs,<sup>270</sup> the draft Declaration on Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction,<sup>271</sup> illicit manufacture of stimulants,<sup>272</sup> implementation of measures to counter illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants,<sup>273</sup> international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities,<sup>274</sup> international regulation and control of trade in poppy seeds,<sup>275</sup> the Lucknow Accord on the Adoption of Uniform Measures to Control International Trade in Precursors and Other Chemicals Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,<sup>276</sup> measures to combat diversion of psychotropic substances,<sup>277</sup> regional cooperation to reduce risks of drug abuse,<sup>278</sup> strengthening international cooperation against narcotic drugs,<sup>279</sup> strengthening of the role of international narcotics control board,<sup>280</sup> the strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug

<sup>252</sup> E S C resolution 1997/29.

<sup>253</sup> E S C resolution 1996/26.

<sup>254</sup> G A resolution 50/145; E S C resolution 1995/8 and 1995/27.

<sup>255</sup> G A resolution 52/91; E S C resolution 1997/23, 1998/13 and 1999/19.

<sup>256</sup> E S C resolution 1999/27.

<sup>257</sup> G A resolutions 51/63 and 54/131; E S C resolution 1997/27..

<sup>258</sup> E S C resolution 1995/15, 1997/35 and 1998/24.

<sup>259</sup> E S C resolution 1996/10.

<sup>260</sup> E S C resolution 1996/16, 1997/32 and 1998/21.

<sup>261</sup> G A resolution 51/60; E S C resolution 1996/9 and 1997/34.

<sup>262</sup> G A resolutions 50/148 and 54/132.

<sup>263</sup> G A resolution 52/92.

<sup>264</sup> E S C resolution 1999/29.

<sup>265</sup> E S C resolution 1997/40.

<sup>266</sup> E S C resolution 1997/39.

<sup>267</sup> E S C resolution 1995/16.

<sup>268</sup> E S C resolution 1996/29.

<sup>269</sup> E S C resolution 1995/18.

<sup>270</sup> E S C resolutions 1995/19, 1997/38, 1998/25, and 1999/33.

<sup>271</sup> E S C resolution 1996/18.

<sup>272</sup> E S C resolution 1995/20.

<sup>273</sup> E S C resolution 1997/41.

<sup>274</sup> E S C resolution 1995/1.

<sup>275</sup> E S C resolution 1999/32.

<sup>276</sup> E S C resolution 1999/31.

<sup>277</sup> E S C resolution 1996/30.

<sup>278</sup> E S C resolution 1995/17.

<sup>279</sup> E S C resolution 1995/40.

<sup>280</sup> E S C resolution 1996/20.

control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>281</sup> and the Special Session of General Assembly Devoted to Combat Against Illicit Drugs.<sup>282</sup>

49. With regard to children and youth, decisions were taken with regard to the World Summit for Children,<sup>283</sup> commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund,<sup>284</sup> the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,<sup>285</sup> assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors,<sup>286</sup> the girl child,<sup>287</sup> the rights of the child,<sup>288</sup> Conference of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>289</sup> Optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>290</sup> the Optional protocol on sale of children and child prostitution,<sup>291</sup> the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children,<sup>292</sup> policies and programmes involving youth,<sup>293</sup> traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls,<sup>294</sup> Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors,<sup>295</sup> International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World 2001-2010,<sup>296</sup> Practices affecting the health of women and girls,<sup>297</sup> Special Rapporteur on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,<sup>298</sup> involvement of children in armed conflicts and the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts,<sup>299</sup> World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,<sup>300</sup> measures to prevent illicit international trafficking in children,<sup>301</sup> traffic in women and girls,<sup>302</sup> the administration of juvenile justice,<sup>303</sup> International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010),<sup>304</sup> and policies and programmes involving youth.<sup>305</sup> Decisions regarding the elderly primarily dealt with the activities for the International Year of Older Persons.<sup>306</sup> With regard to the family, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council took decisions on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family,<sup>307</sup> and respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification.<sup>308</sup> Decisions dealing with the disabled included full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>309</sup> the implementation of the World

<sup>281</sup> E S C resolution 1999/30.

<sup>282</sup> E S C resolutions 1996/17 and 1997/37.

<sup>283</sup> G A resolution 53/193.

<sup>284</sup> G A resolution 51/192.

<sup>285</sup> G A resolution 50/81.

<sup>286</sup> G A resolution 50/150.

<sup>287</sup> G A resolutions 50/154, 51/76, 52/106.

<sup>288</sup> G A resolutions 51/77 and 54/149.

<sup>289</sup> G A resolution 50/155.

<sup>290</sup> G A resolution 54/263.

<sup>291</sup> E S C resolution 1995/35.

<sup>292</sup> G A resolution 51/186.

<sup>293</sup> G A resolution 52/83.

<sup>294</sup> G A resolutions 52/99 and 54/133.

<sup>295</sup> G A resolutions 52/105 and 54/145.

<sup>296</sup> G A resolution 53/25.

<sup>297</sup> G A resolution 53/117.

<sup>298</sup> E S C resolution [1995/36](#).

<sup>299</sup> E S C resolution [1995/37](#).

<sup>300</sup> E S C resolutions 1995/64 and 1997/55.

<sup>301</sup> E S C resolution [1996/26](#).

<sup>302</sup> G A resolution 53/116.

<sup>303</sup> E S C resolutions 1997/30 and 1999/28.

<sup>304</sup> E S C resolution [1998/31](#).

<sup>305</sup> E S C resolution 1999/18.

<sup>306</sup> *See e.g.*, G A resolutions 50/141 and 53/109; E S C resolutions 1995/21 and 1997/18.

<sup>307</sup> G A resolution 50/142 and 54/124; and E S C resolution 1997/21.

<sup>308</sup> G A resolution 50/175 and 53/143.

<sup>309</sup> G A resolution 50/144.

Programme of Action concerning disabled persons,<sup>310</sup> equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,<sup>311</sup> children with disabilities,<sup>312</sup> and strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the 21st Century.<sup>313</sup> Decisions dealing with the disabled included equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,<sup>314</sup> children with disabilities,<sup>315</sup> and strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the 21st Century.<sup>316</sup>

50. In a number of areas dealt with in the past, the principal organs focused attention on specific and problematic aspects. For example, with regard to women in development, the General Assembly took decisions regarding violence against women migrant workers.<sup>317</sup> In the field of crime and criminal justice, the principle organs took decisions dealing with action against corruption and bribery,<sup>318</sup> measures on the prevention and control of illicit trafficking in motor vehicles,<sup>319</sup> regulation of firearms<sup>320</sup> and explosives<sup>321</sup> for the purpose of crime prevention and public safety, the illicit trade in small arms,<sup>322</sup> and measures for the prevention of the smuggling of aliens.<sup>323</sup> With regard to environmental protection, decisions were adopted regarding the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control<sup>324</sup> the role of criminal law in protecting the environment<sup>325</sup> and the World Solar Programme<sup>326</sup> and the question of proclaiming an international year of mountains.<sup>327</sup> With regard to humanitarian action, the Assembly took decisions with regard to assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors<sup>328</sup> and protection and assistance for internally displaced persons.<sup>329</sup>

## 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

#### *a) The Role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development*

51. By its resolution 49/95, the General Assembly reaffirmed<sup>330</sup> the United Nations had central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community. In this vein, the Assembly requested<sup>331</sup> the Secretary-General to propose

<sup>310</sup> G A resolutions 52/82 and 54/121.

<sup>311</sup> E S C resolution 1997/19.

<sup>312</sup> E S C resolution 1997/20

<sup>313</sup> E S C resolution 1998/4.

<sup>314</sup> E S C resolution 1997/19.

<sup>315</sup> E S C resolution 1997/20

<sup>316</sup> E S C resolution 1998/4.

<sup>317</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 51/65.

<sup>318</sup> See e.g., G A resolutions 51/59, 51/191, 53/176; E S C resolutions 1995/14 and 1999/22.

<sup>319</sup> See e.g., E S C resolution 1997/29.

<sup>320</sup> See e.g., E S C resolutions 1995/27, IV and 1996/28.

<sup>321</sup> See e.g., E S C resolution 1998/17.

<sup>322</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 52/92.

<sup>323</sup> G A resolution 51/62. See also E S C resolution 1998/19.

<sup>324</sup> G A resolution 52/38 E.

<sup>325</sup> E S C resolution 1996/10.

<sup>326</sup> G A resolutions 53/7 and 54/215.

<sup>327</sup> E S C resolutions 1995/235 and 1997/45.

<sup>328</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 54/ 145.

<sup>329</sup> G A resolution 54/167.

<sup>330</sup> GA resolution 49/95, para. 4.

<sup>331</sup> Ibid.,

themes that represent mutual interests, and that would benefit all countries and relevant to the elaboration of an agenda for development.

52. Pursuant to this mandate, the Secretary-General's report<sup>332</sup> referred to a note, which suggested that market-driven globalization, the growing trend towards regional integration and the logic of increasing interdependence created the imperative of dialogue and cooperation for all countries. The report further pointed out that the expanding role of the non-state actors, the erosion of the capacity of Governments to influence economic outcomes and the complex interaction between forces of integration and fragmentation in the world economy, while generating new impulses of growth and development, were also giving rise to marginalization of the poorest developing countries as well as sizeable segments of the population in industrial countries.<sup>333</sup> The Secretary-General also stated that internationalization of many economic activities, the effects of new information technologies and of modern transport and communications, the global consequences of actions regarding the planet's resources and the erosion of many economic frontiers called for major adjustments in the nature and scope of international cooperation.<sup>334</sup> Cooperation became more likely when countries were faced with adverse effects of interdependence without much prospect of protecting themselves with the traditional means of domestic policies and actions. Therefore, partnership based on mutual interest became increasingly attractive.

53. By resolution 50/122, the Assembly, stressing that centrality of development in United Nations activities and that the Organization had a central role to play in promoting international economic cooperation for development, reaffirmed that a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, and that the United Nations should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue.

54. Consequently, the General Assembly held a two-day high-level meeting on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development on 17 and 18 September 1998. The dialogue, focusing on the overall theme of the economic and social impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, represented a further step in United Nations efforts to advance multilateral cooperation on issues of vital importance to all countries, bringing together expertise from the private sector, the academic world and active participation of the United Nations entities owing to the organization's universality and its unique platform for defining the principles and norms necessary to harness the potential of globalization.<sup>335</sup> In this vein, many delegations focused on the need to strengthen multilateralism. It was underscored that the establishment of global governance that would match the potency and the scope of globalization was possible only through the central instrumentality of a reformed, democratized and fully empowered United Nations.<sup>336</sup>

55. At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/169 on the Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence. Reaffirming<sup>337</sup> the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to the role of the United Nations in promoting international economic and social cooperation, the Assembly expressed concern over the serious risks of marginalization of developing countries from globalization and reiterated the unique position of the United Nations, as a universal forum, to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence.

56. Further, the Assembly underlined<sup>338</sup> the need to continue to work to ensure full participation of all developing countries in the benefits of globalization, recognizing the needs and specific concerns of

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<sup>332</sup> A/50/480, para. 3. *See also* A/49/542.

<sup>333</sup> A/50/480, para. 3.

<sup>334</sup> A/50/480, para. 12.

<sup>335</sup> A/53/529, para. 6.

<sup>336</sup> A/53/529, para.42.

<sup>337</sup> GA resolution 53/169.

<sup>338</sup> *Ibid.*

developing countries, particularly the special needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States as well as those of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy. The Assembly recognized the urgency of working together in developing a global approach to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries. It requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in consultation with relevant organizations, in particular the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the regional commissions, an analytical report examining the interrelated issues in order to facilitate better understanding of globalization and makes recommendations on, *inter alia*: (a) the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence and; (b) promoting coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic and development issues at the global level in order to optimize the benefits and limit the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence.

57. Pursuant to this resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a report<sup>339</sup> attempting to clarify the ways in which the complex phenomenon of globalization affected development and the implications of this interaction for the development role of the United Nations. The report also aimed to identify and further enhance the role of the United Nations system. Given the organization's democratic character, it had a clear comparative advantage in promoting a coherent policy response both at the national and international levels. The Secretary-General reported<sup>340</sup> that the United Nations was uniquely suited to assume normative leadership for "globalization with a human face." It could do so by promoting a broader vision of human development. As a first step, it needed to help devise an effective response to the twin challenges of globalization, the need for greater policy coherence and institutional capacity building at the national, regional and global levels.<sup>341</sup> Therefore, it was implied that the development work of the United Nations, both at the analytical and normative level, and its operational activities needed more focus on meeting those challenges. The United Nations needed to work very closely with key partners such as the Bretton Woods institutions and other organizations of the system, Governments of both developed and developing countries, the corporate and financial sectors and civil society institutions at large to build the necessary consensus around the need for change in policies and institutions.<sup>342</sup> Practical action, the report continued, meant agreeing on the rules of the game and building institutional oversight capacity. The United Nations was the pre-eminent body to launch the discussions on setting those rules, norms and standards and to build consensus around the institutional arrangements needed for applying them.<sup>343</sup> In terms of policy coherence and institutional capacity building, it was proposed that the biannual high-level General Assembly meetings on the renewal of dialogue should provide an important opportunity for a broad-based dialogue on such issues, while key events such as financing for development, UNCTAD X and the five-year reviews of global conferences would serve to advance the overall agenda of strengthening the capacity for economic governance.<sup>344</sup>

58. With regard to operational activities, the report suggested that efforts of the Organization in this field should contribute to the expansion of national capacity to take advantage of the positive implications of globalization and to deal with its negative implications, placing a sharper focus on pursuing, *inter alia*, the following objectives: (a) Help to develop a coherent and integrated policy framework encompassing the macroeconomic, financial, social and environmental aspects; (b) Assist in human resource development; (c) Establish an enabling environment to expand foreign and domestic investment; (d)

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<sup>339</sup> A/54/358.

<sup>340</sup> A/54/358, para. 47.

<sup>341</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>342</sup> *Ibid.*, para.48

<sup>343</sup> *Ibid.*, para.50

<sup>344</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 51.

Diversify and expand domestic production as well as import-export trade; (e) Facilitate and fully use the benefits of technological transfer; (f) Expand capacities to deal with external debt management.<sup>345</sup>

59. At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 54/231. Taking note of, *inter alia*, the report of the Secretary-General, the Assembly:

“1. *Reaffirm[ed]* that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting greater policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

“2. *Strongly stress[ed]* that the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization should intensify their collaboration, as appropriate, in promoting policy coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic, financial, trade and development issues at the global level, which should aim at optimizing the benefits and minimizing the negative consequences of globalization, liberalization and interdependence, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

“3. *Call[ed]* for increased international cooperation to address the challenges of globalization through the enhanced participation of developing countries in the international economic policy decision-making process; integrated consideration of trade, finance, technology transfer and development issues by the relevant international institutions; and the continuation of a wide range of reforms of the international financial system;

“4. *Call[ed] upon* all countries, in particular the major developed economies, to enhance coherence among their financial, trade and development cooperation policies, with a view to creating an enabling international economic environment supportive of development, in particular of developing countries;

“5. *Stresse[ed]* the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources, so as to realize the mutually reinforcing objectives of poverty eradication and development, including through national poverty reduction strategies and enhanced policy coherence;

“6. *Urge[ed]* the international community to promote international development cooperation aimed at enhancing the participation of developing countries in the globalizing world economy;

“7. *Also urge[ed]* the international community to adopt policies that promote equity in finance, trade and transfer of technology and address the problems of developing countries in the areas of external debt and transfer of resources, financial vulnerability, declining terms of trade and market access;

...

“11. *Emphasiz[ed]* the technology-led dimension of globalization and the importance of facilitating access to and transfer of information and communication technology and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including 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, to enable them to benefit from globalization through full and effective integration into the emerging global information network;

“12. *Strongly emphasiz[ed]* the need for the regional and national capacity-building programmes of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to have a strong component oriented towards assisting developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in the area of information and communication technology;

“13. *Request[ed]* the Secretary-General to prepare, in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in consultation with other relevant organizations, a comprehensive report containing action-oriented recommendations on promoting further the role of the United Nations system in the transfer of information and communication technology to developing countries and also on its role in promoting policy coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic, financial, trade, technology and development issues at the global level in order to optimize the benefits of globalization;

<sup>345</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 69.

“14. *Also request[ed]* the Secretary-General to convene, if possible, from extrabudgetary resources, a meeting of a high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology, taking into account equitable geographical representation, and in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, to be made available in early June 2000, containing recommendations on the role of the United Nations in enhancing the integration of developing countries in the emerging global information network, facilitating access for developing countries to information and communication technology, including access on preferential and concessional terms, where appropriate, and promoting the participation of developing countries, including through infrastructure facilities, in knowledge-intensive sectors of the global economy;

...

“16. *Decid[ed]* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled ‘Globalization and interdependence’.”<sup>346</sup>

#### b. *Agenda for Development*

60. It will be recalled that, at its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly, recalling its commitment to promote the achievement of the objectives and priorities of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session, in consultation with Member States, a report on an agenda for development, taking fully into consideration the objectives and agreements on development adopted by the Assembly.<sup>347</sup> Work on the initiative proceeded to take into account a broad range of sources to ultimately arrive at the text of the Agenda. In the course of the next several years, the Secretary General had elicited the views of all Member States, the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as a wide range of public and private sources.<sup>348</sup> The Secretary-General reported that it was envisioned that the Agenda for Development was to “bring out the new face of the world economy, stressing the globalization of economic flows, and taking stock of the increased interdependence among nations and issues.”<sup>349</sup>

61. By 48/166, the Assembly had decided to pursue open-ended, broad-based intergovernmental discussions to consider an agenda for development,<sup>350</sup> which evolved into the World Hearings on Development in June of 1994, convened by the President of the Assembly and held against the backdrop of the Secretary-General’s report.<sup>351</sup> The Hearings received written submissions by expert witnesses and others concerned.<sup>352</sup> The Hearings were organized to cover five themes: Development, peace and security; Challenges and imperatives of growth and sustainable development: putting people first; Globalization: growth and required action; A New partnership for global development, and; Coordination and institutional support: the role of the United Nations.<sup>353</sup>

62. For its part, the Economic and Social Council, at the recommendation of the Assembly,<sup>354</sup> had selected ‘An Agenda for Development’ as the theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session

<sup>346</sup> G A resolution 54/231.

<sup>347</sup> G A resolution 47/181. *See also Supplement No. 8*, under this Article, paras. 11, 12 and 29. The Assembly, in the same resolution, stressed that the objectives and commitments with regard to development adopted by the General Assembly, all together provided the overall framework of international cooperation for development. These included those contained in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Cartagena Commitment, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and the various consensus agreements and conventions adopted at the level of heads of State or government, especially the UNCED Agenda 21, which marked the beginning of a new global partnership for sustainable development.

<sup>348</sup> *See* A/48/689 and A/48/935.

<sup>349</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 3.

<sup>350</sup> G A resolution 48/166.

<sup>351</sup> A/48/935.

<sup>352</sup> A/49/320.

<sup>353</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 40.

<sup>354</sup> G A resolution 48/166.

of 1994, held on 28 and 29 June in New York.<sup>355</sup> At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly took note of the relevant chapters of the Council's report,<sup>356</sup> and by its resolution 49/126, the General Assembly, taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General and of the President's summary and conclusions on the World Hearings<sup>357</sup>, had decided on the establishment of an *ad hoc* open-ended working group of the Assembly to further elaborate an action-oriented, comprehensive agenda for development. The Working Group was to begin its work as early as possible in 1995 and to submit a progress report on its work to the Assembly before the conclusion of its forty-ninth session. In addition, the Assembly requested the Council to provide "substantive input" to the work of the *ad hoc* working group, and decided to include the item "Agenda for development" in the provisional agenda for its fiftieth session.

63. During the period under review, in 1995, the *ad hoc* open-ended working group established under the chairmanship of the President of the General Assembly held three sessions. The *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group held three sessions in February, May and August/September of 1995. At its first session, the Working Group had a preliminary exchange of views on a tentative outline for an Agenda for Development and requested the Secretariat to provide, before its next session, a compendium containing the goals, targets and commitments, as well as an assessment as to their status of implementation, of major United Nations conferences, agreements and meetings that had been held over the last five years.<sup>358</sup>

64. At its second session, the Working Group had before it the Vice-Chairmen's proposed outline and the compendium as well as written contributions from a number of groups and States. Based on the proposed outline, the Working Group agreed that the Agenda for Development should consist of the following three chapters: (a) setting and objectives; (b) policy framework, including means of implementation; and (c) institutional issues and follow-up. On the basis of this outline, the Working Group had an exchange of views on the first two chapters. Following these discussions, the Working Group entrusted its two Vice-Chairmen to provide a synthesis text for its third session, that would take into account the views expressed during its second session as well as all written contributions. In addition, the Working Group requested the Secretariat to provide a compilation of all written contributions for its third session. At its third session, the Working Group had before it the Vice-Chairmen's synthesis text and the compilation. The Working Group agreed that the Vice-Chairmen's synthesis text, although containing only the first two chapters of the Agenda for Development, should serve as a basis for negotiations. The Working Group reviewed the synthesis text and held an exchange of views on the third chapter of the Agenda for Development. At the end of the session, the Group entrusted the two Vice-Chairmen with providing a revised synthesis text, including chapter III, based on the discussions held during the third session.<sup>359</sup> Pursuant to Assembly decisions 49/497 and 50/490, the Working Group continued its work during the fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Assembly, and adopted its report in June of 1996.<sup>360</sup>

65. At its fifty-first session, on the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group,<sup>361</sup> the General Assembly, by its resolution 51/240, adopted the "Agenda for Development," reflecting the objectives of Article 55 (a) and (b):

"In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization aims at the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality of all its Members, equal rights and self-determination of

<sup>355</sup> A/49/3/Rev. 1 and E/1994/109.

<sup>356</sup> G A decision 49/441.

<sup>357</sup> A/49/320, paras. 4-67.

<sup>358</sup> A/49/45, paras. 1-10.

<sup>359</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>360</sup> A/AC.250/1 Parts I, II and III, reissued as G A (51) Supplement No. 45, (A/51/45).

<sup>361</sup> G A (51), Supplement No. 45 (A/51/45).

peoples and at achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.”<sup>362</sup>

Section I sets the Agenda in the context of, *inter alia*, trends towards increasing globalization, interdependence, global financial and trade integration, and the need for new partnerships in international economic relations, the interrelation between development, peace and security, the need for a commitment to partnership in the context of globalization, the impact of globalization, the concerns as to the critical situations and problems in Africa, and the importance of democracy and transparency, notably in the promotion of rights such as the right to development.<sup>363</sup> The Assembly identified as the objectives of the Agenda the need to strengthen international cooperation for development, particularly through the implementation of all international agreements and commitments for development, the enhancement of the role, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system in development; and the need to promote development based on an integrated approach.<sup>364</sup> In discussing the policy framework,<sup>365</sup> the Agenda made recommendations with regard to economic development -- including macroeconomic policies towards economic growth and sustained development, international trade, issues of external and internal finance, science and technology-, social development, the status of women, the rights of the child, and population and development and international migration. Also, the Agenda emphasized the interdependent relationship between environment and development, notably via the implementation of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of other international conventions on environment, the impact of humanitarian issues on development and the increasing role of non-State actors in development. Finally, action for “countries in special situations” was to be considered, namely for African countries, developing countries, the least developed countries and other countries with economies in transition.

66. Within this context, the role of the Organization was key: “[t]he role and functions of the United Nations in international economic and social cooperation, as defined in the Charter and as further elaborated in various international agreements, including in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, range wide and deep and should be fulfilled.”<sup>366</sup> Citing the universal membership and comprehensive mandate of the United Nations, the Agenda identifies the central role of the Organization to promote international cooperation for development and provide policy guidance on global development issues, to forge international consensus in the field of development through intergovernmental processes and instruments, to raise public awareness and promote internationally agreed principles and commitments, implement concrete programmes which aim to respond to developmental and humanitarian needs and to promote social justice and the protection of the environment through its activities at the field level and through the collection and dissemination of information, to foster greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in economic policy-making at the global level, including, *inter alia*, macroeconomic policy issues, and to ensure the principles of transparency and effective participation and representation. Using its unique mandate to address issues of peace and development in an integrated manner, the United Nations has a vital role in mobilizing the international community to respond in a comprehensive and coordinated way to rehabilitation and reconstruction but also to longer-term development needs in connection with humanitarian emergency situations. In the context of operational activities for development, the United Nations would effectively support Governments, particularly those of the developing countries, in their efforts to address increasingly complex issues of development in an interdependent world.<sup>367</sup>

67. The Agenda aims at enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization in fulfilling its mandate:

<sup>362</sup> G A resolution 51/240, annex, section III, para. 232.

<sup>363</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. Section I, 3-32.

<sup>364</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 33-46.

<sup>365</sup> *Ibid.*, section II, paras. 47-202.

<sup>366</sup> *Ibid.*, section III, para. 232

<sup>367</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 233-240.

“245. The General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policies in the economic, social and related fields, and the main forum where Governments pursue the development dialogue in its political context. This dialogue aims at both promoting an integrated view of matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, thus fostering the deeper political understanding needed for enhanced international development cooperation, and at generating impulses for action and launching initiatives. The Assembly should exert greater policy leadership on development issues inasmuch as the Charter of the United Nations provides the Assembly with broad mandates concerning these issues.”

“248. ... The Assembly has the overall responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the results of United Nations conferences and facilitating and reviewing progress achieved. In this context, the Assembly should provide policy guidance and carry out on a periodic basis an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the conferences. Such conferences should be complementary to the Assembly’s in-depth consideration of major issues of concern to the international community.

“... ”

“249. At the same time, for the Assembly to fully perform its Charter role measures also have to be taken in addition to the strengthening of the Assembly itself and to ensure that priorities set by the Assembly are fully implemented and followed up by the entire United Nations system. The policy guidance role of the Assembly in promoting international cooperation to solving international problems of an economic and social character should be fully exercised in all areas of development, including macroeconomic issues.”<sup>368</sup>

The Agenda called for the identification of measures to enhance the ability of the debate in the General Assembly to generate substantive solutions to specific policy problems and to take an integrated approach to development, including the possibility of choosing a principal theme or themes in order to focus substantive debate under each “cluster” in the agenda without prejudice to the right of delegations to raise any other specific issue in the debates.<sup>369</sup>

68. With regard to the Economic and Social Council, the Agenda states, *inter alia*:

“251. In accordance with relevant provisions of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council must continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for coordination of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies, in particular its functional commissions in the economic and social fields. The ongoing efforts to reform the Council call for more effective procedures and review of its work programme and working methods and should result in an increased capacity of the Council to provide overall guidance, monitor and coordinate the United Nations development system. These reforms should be allowed to take root and be built upon.”

### c. *The World Summit for Social Development*

69. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly had decided, by its resolution 47/92, to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government early in 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”.<sup>370</sup>

70. During the period under review, the World Summit for Social Development [hereinafter “the Summit”] was held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1995<sup>371</sup> and produced the Copenhagen Declaration on

<sup>368</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>369</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>370</sup> G A resolution 47/92. For more discussion on the preparatory process for the Summit, see A/49/24/Rev.1, A/CONF.166/L.1 and A/CONF.166/PC/28.

<sup>371</sup> A/CONF.166/9.

Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The core issues addressed were the enhancement of social integration, poverty alleviation and the expansion of productive employment. Under the challenge of establishing a people-centred framework for social development, of building a culture of cooperation and partnership, and of responding to immediate needs,<sup>372</sup> the heads of State or Government adopted principles and goals as well as ten commitments for action enumerated in the Copenhagen Declaration. The Programme of Action provided for a set of policies, actions and measures.

71. The Summit and the resulting instruments took an integrated approach in its attempt to combine different actions for poverty eradication, employment creation and social integration in coherent national and international strategies for development. At the international level, the Programme called for a framework for cooperation developed in the context of the agenda for development in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the Summit, together with the results of other recent and planned United Nations conferences related to social development.<sup>373</sup> The Programme of Action set out the specific role of the Organization in following-up with the Conference. It was envisioned that the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental mechanism, would be the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Summit review the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the outcome of the Summit with regard to poverty eradication, as part of the activities relating to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. The Assembly would hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, and consider further action and initiatives. The Programme recommended that the Assembly, at its fiftieth session, declare the first United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty, drawing upon the initial work of the agenda for development working group on a common framework for the implementation of the outcome of conferences.<sup>374</sup> The General Assembly, as well as the Economic and Social Council, could convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on critical social issues and on policies for addressing them through international cooperation.

72. The Economic and Social Council, in the context of its role under the Charter of the United Nations vis-à-vis the Assembly and in accordance with Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, would oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Summit outcome and make recommendations in this regard, examining ways to strengthen, consistent with the mandates of the Charter of the United Nations, the role and authority, structures, resources and processes of the Council, bringing specialized agencies into a closer working relationship with the Council to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit. The Council was invited to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development and to review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent system that would result in clear policy recommendations for Governments and international actors. Within the framework of the discussions on an agenda for development and the discussions of the Council at its coordination segment of 1995 on a common framework for the implementation of the outcome of United Nations conferences in the economic and social fields, consideration should be given to the possibility of holding joint meetings of the Council and the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.<sup>375</sup> The Programme also identified the important role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring those aspects of the Declaration and Programme of Action that relate to compliance by States Parties with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

<sup>372</sup> *Ibid.*, Annex I, para. 24.

<sup>373</sup> A/CONF.166/9, annex II, chapter V, D, para. 94. Conferences included, in particular, the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

<sup>374</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>375</sup> *Ibid.*

73. The Programme acknowledged an appropriate role for the Organization in providing technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries as well as to the countries with economies in transition, in implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action. It further made recommendations to strengthen United Nations operational activities for development in order to implement the Summit outcome, in accordance with relevant resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 47/199.

74. At its fiftieth session, by resolution 50/161 the General Assembly endorsed the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and, *inter alia*, reiterated the call to Governments to define time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and enhancing social integration, within each national context. While emphasizing the need for the promotion of an integrated and multidimensional approach for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action at all levels, the Assembly also reiterated the call for formulating or strengthening, by 1996, comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the outcome of the Summit and national strategies for social development. It further called for regularly assessing national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, possibly in the form of periodic national reports and reaffirmed the need for effective partnership and cooperation, on the matter, between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners and the major groups as defined in Agenda 21.<sup>376</sup> In the following years, relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system were actively involved in the follow-up to the Summit, adjusting their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions – namely 51/202, 52/25, 53/28, and 54/23 – on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit.

75. With regard to the role of the United Nations system, the Assembly, in resolution 50/161 set out the mandate for actions to be taken by the United Nations system. Reflecting the recommendations in the Programme of Action, the Assembly decided on a three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the Summit consisting of the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and a revitalized Commission for Social Development. In accordance with the request of the Copenhagen Declaration,<sup>377</sup> the Assembly decided also to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives. It requested the Council to continue examining ways to strengthen its role, authority, structures, resources and processes, bringing specialized agencies into a closer working relationship with it in order, *inter alia*, to review the implementation of the outcome Summit. It further invited the Council to review the reporting system in the area of social development, and invited, moreover, within their mandates, the regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to consider convening, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views on their respective experiences and to adopt the appropriate measures.<sup>378</sup>

76. Also at its fiftieth session, following up with Assembly resolution 48/183 proclaiming the year “1996” the “International Year for the Eradication of the Poverty”, the Assembly decided that the aim of the activities during the Year should be to support a longer-term, sustained effort to implement fully and effectively the commitments, recommendations and measures undertaken, and the basic provisions already agreed upon at major United Nations conferences since 1990, in particular, *inter alia*, the Summit.<sup>379</sup> In view of the recommendation contained in the Programme of Action of the Summit, the Assembly declared “1997-2006”, the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty with a

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<sup>376</sup> See *Repertory, Supplement 8*, under this Article, paras. 205 to 215.

<sup>377</sup> A/CONF.166/9, Annex I, commitment 10, g).

<sup>378</sup> G A resolution 50/161.

<sup>379</sup> G A resolution 50/107.

view to considering further initiatives on the eradication of poverty.<sup>380</sup> At the end of the year 1996, the Assembly adopted resolution 51/178, in which it decided that the objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty was to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully and effectively all agreements, commitments and recommendations of major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they related to poverty eradication. It further recognized the need to increase the share of funding for social development programmes, in particular basic social programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of the activities required to achieve the objectives and goals set out in commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and chapter II of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, relating to the eradication of poverty.

77. At its fifty-first session, the Assembly adopted resolution 51/202 on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. The Assembly *inter alia*, referred to the initiative taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (hereinafter referred to as ACC) to establish inter-agency task forces on follow-up to international conferences, and requested the ACC to report to the Council on the outcome of the work of those task forces and on future inter-agency coordination on the implementation by the United Nations system of the outcome of the Summit. At its fifty-second session, the Assembly, by resolution 52/25, took note with appreciation of the work accomplished by the inter-agency task forces established by the ACC to ensure that the United Nations effectively provided support for the integrated implementation at the country level of the action programmes that emerged from the Summit and other recent United Nations conferences.<sup>381</sup> It further welcomed the initiatives taken by the regional commissions in that field as, *inter alia*, the holding of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference in Follow-up to the Summit or the convening by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development at Manila in 1997, to review national progress achieved and regional action taken in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. The Assembly decided also to establish a Preparatory Committee in view of its special session in 2000 on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and further initiatives, which would initiate its substantive activities in 1999.

78. In this regard, the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 special session of the General Assembly held its first substantive session in 1999<sup>382</sup> concerning general matters for the preparation process and a resumed session in September, in which it adopted decisions on arrangements regarding non-governmental organizations participation and accreditation for the special session.<sup>383</sup> In May, the Committee recommended three decisions for adoption by the General Assembly, including one dealing with the role of the United Nations system,<sup>384</sup> inviting all relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to elaborate, as set out in the annex of the decision, review reports and proposals for further action and initiatives. In the decision's annex, specific organs were requested to carry out specific studies under each of the commitment of the Copenhagen Declaration.

79. With regard to regional follow-up, the General Assembly renewed, at its fifty-first session, the Summit's invitation to the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit.<sup>385</sup> Subsequently, the

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<sup>380</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>381</sup> At its second regular session in October 1995, the ACC established three inter-agency task forces (namely, on basic social services for all; on employment and sustainable livelihoods; and on the enabling environment for social and economic development). See A/50/670, para.60 and 61. See also A/51/348, para.57.

<sup>382</sup> A/54/45.

<sup>383</sup> A/54/45/Add.1.

<sup>384</sup> A/54/45, Chapter VI. B. Preparatory Committee decision 1.

<sup>385</sup> See paragraph 95 h) of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. See also G A resolution 51/202.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean organized the First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the Summit at São Paulo in April 1997 with the participation of high-level representatives of States Members of the Commission.<sup>386</sup> This meeting led to the issue of final documents known as the “São Paulo Consensus”, in which the signatories undertook, *inter alia*, commitments related to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit.<sup>387</sup>

80. The Economic and Social Council oversaw system-wide coordination of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit in the follow-up to the Summit. By its decision 1995/224, the Council decided, in May, that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1995 would consider, as one of its themes, a preliminary exchange on the follow-up by the United Nations system to the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, giving due attention to the direction to be taken by the United Nations for adopting an approach to social development issues in accordance with the framework developed by the Summit. Subsequently, at its substantive session of 1995, the Council held a debate on the follow-up of the Summit and adopted resolution 1995/60. The Council reiterated the need for all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in accordance with their mandates. Regarding the Commission for Social Development, the Council decided that the Commission should review on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up of the outcome of the Summit and should, to this end, improve international understanding of social development, make recommendations on social development to the Council and elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering the recommendations of the Summit. The Council decided further that the Commission should hold a special session so as to, *inter alia*, review its mandate, terms of reference and scope of work, to elaborate its multi-year programme of work. In addition, during the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1995, the Council considered the theme of coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and the implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. In its agreed conclusions, the Council decided, *inter alia*, to ensure, in this context, the harmonization and coordination of agendas and work programmes of its functional commissions.<sup>388</sup>

81. By its resolution 1996/7 on the follow-up to the Summit and the future role of the Commission for Social Development, the Council decided that the Commission would have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to the Summit and the review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, while calling upon all relevant organs, organizations, bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit. It also decided that the ACC task-forces established for the follow-up of the Summit and other related United Nations conferences should inform the Commission and the Council about the progress made in their work. At its coordination segment devoted to the coordination of the activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty, the Council adopted a set of agreed conclusions<sup>389</sup> in which it stressed the important role played by the United Nations system in the overall effort for poverty eradication and in assisting Member States in translating the global goals and commitments of the international conferences and the statutory mandates of each organization into concrete actions and activities at all levels. It was also stated that the Council would focus on providing comprehensive guidelines and coordination of the work of other organs to ensure a multidimensional, integrated and gender-sensitive approach to poverty eradication in accordance with, *inter alia*, the Programme of Action of the Summit.<sup>390</sup> Furthermore, that same year, the Council adopted a resolution<sup>391</sup> on follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits, in which, it decided to continue, in this

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<sup>386</sup> See A/52/305, para. 6.

<sup>387</sup> See E S C resolution 1997/56. See also G A resolution 52/25.

<sup>388</sup> A/50/3, Chapter III, para.22, E S C agreed conclusions 1995/1.

<sup>389</sup> E S C agreed conclusions 1996/1. See also A/51/348, para.34.

<sup>390</sup> See also E S C resolution 1997/60.

<sup>391</sup> E S C resolution 1996/36. See also E S C resolutions 1997/61, 1998/44 and 1999/55.

context, to ensure, on a regular basis, the harmonization and coordination of the multi-year work programmes of relevant functional commissions.

82. At its substantive session of 1999, the Economic and Social Council devoted its high-level segment to the theme “The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women”. The ministerial communiqué adopted<sup>392</sup> by ministers and heads of delegations reaffirmed the commitment made at the Summit to the goal of eradication of poverty in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation. At the end, the Council agreed that the international community had a key role to play in supporting efforts to eradicate poverty, promote productive employment and achieve gender equality, and that the mobilization of new and additional financial resources from all sources, national and international was required. It also called upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take consistent, coherent, coordinated and joint actions in support of national efforts to eradicate poverty, with particular attention to employment creation and work and the empowerment and advancement of women. It decided to transmit to the General Assembly, as inputs to the five-year reviews of, *inter alia*, the Summit, the Council’s outcome on the role of employment and work in poverty eradication; operational activities, in particular poverty eradication and capacity building.

83. Throughout the review period, the Council’s Commission for Social Development carried out a key role in implementing the Summit Programme. At its thirty-fourth session, in April 1995, the Commission for Social Development, considering the Summit as one of its main items and as a priority subject, focused on the arrangements for the implementation and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.<sup>393</sup> It adopted a draft resolution<sup>394</sup> on the follow-up to the Summit transmitting its views and considerations to the Council at its substantive session of 1995. Pursuant to Council resolution 1996/7, the Commission for Social Development devoted its thirty-sixth session, in February 1998,<sup>395</sup> to the priority theme “Promoting social integration and participation of people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons,” and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups. At its thirty-seventh session, in February 1999, the Commission for Social Development considered two priority themes and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.<sup>396</sup> With regard to the theme of social service for all, the Commission adopted a resolution<sup>397</sup> which contained agreed conclusions, and decided to transmit them to the Council for its consideration at its substantive session of 1999, as well as to the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 special session of the General Assembly. The agreed conclusions provided analysis and recommendations for action to promote the efficient and effective delivery of social services for all, as a contribution to overall social development. They set out general principles and goals, suggested priorities for delivery and provision of social services, discussed the need for partnership between the Governments and the other social actors, stressed the importance of the information, encouraged the mobilization of resources and established parameters for international cooperation for social services. Concerning the initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, the Commission adopted resolution 37/3,<sup>398</sup> inviting Governments to provide additional inputs, in particular proposals concerning possible further initiatives, to the Preparatory Committee, to facilitate its work at its first substantive session. Also, the Secretary General was requested to update two reports on the preliminary assessment of and on further initiatives for the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, before their presentation to the Preparatory Committee, reflecting the proposals and suggestions made during the discussions in the

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<sup>392</sup> A/54/3, p. 23.

<sup>393</sup> See E/1995/24.

<sup>394</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter I, E. resolution 34/4.

<sup>395</sup> See E/1998/26.

<sup>396</sup> See E/1999/26.

<sup>397</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter I, D. Commission for Social Development resolution 37/1.

<sup>398</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter I, D. Commission for Social Development resolution 37/3.

Commission, as well as any additional inputs submitted by Governments. By its decision 1999/259, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report and endorsed its resolutions and decisions.

84. Pursuant to the decisions of the Assembly over the review period, the Secretariat issued several reports regarding international cooperation, implementation and follow-up to the Summit.<sup>399</sup> The reports described<sup>400</sup> the actions taken by Governments, the United Nations and civil society, since the adoption of Assembly resolution 50/161, as well as the relevant actions taken by, *inter alia*, the Commission for Sustainable Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission, the regional commissions, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Bretton Woods institutions. Upon the request of the Council,<sup>401</sup> the Secretary-General provided also an overview of the relevant programme activities of the Secretariat<sup>402</sup> and the regional commissions.<sup>403</sup>

85. The Secretary-General issued studies to assist the Commission for Social Development in carrying out its mandate, including a study for the 1996 special session of the Commission for Social Development on its three priority themes: (a) Formulation of integrated strategies; (b) Meeting the basic human needs of all; (c) Promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives held in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1995/324.<sup>404</sup> The Secretary-General submitted a report on emerging issues and trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, including the situation of specific groups, examining major issues, recent developments and programmes activities related to youth, ageing, disabled persons and families in development were examined.<sup>405</sup> To assist the Commission in its deliberations regarding, "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods", the Secretary-General submitted a report<sup>406</sup> on the issue, prepared by the task manager, the International Labour Office, with contributions from the United Nations system. Pursuant to requests by the Council,<sup>407</sup> to open the debates of the Commission for Social Development to experts and the main actors of civil society, the United Nations Secretariat, in preparing for the sessions of the Commission, organized workshops<sup>408</sup> in which independent experts from all regions and observers from the United Nations system and the civil society participated.

86. Pursuant to the request of the Preparatory Committee,<sup>409</sup> the Secretary-General submitted it a report, through the Commission for Social Development, in December 1998,<sup>410</sup> on the implementation of the ten commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration, at the national, regional and international levels. It also attempted to identify the main trends in policy-making that would indicate progress towards the fulfilment of the agreed commitments. The report concluded by noting that the goals decided at Copenhagen progressed at various degrees of speed and success.<sup>411</sup> According to the report, while most countries took some steps towards fulfilling the commitments, several targets specified in the programme of Action would not be met within the period agreed.<sup>412</sup> This report was considered by the Commission, at its thirty-seventh session, in parallel with another report of the Secretary-General issued at the same time,<sup>413</sup> under its second priority theme, namely, "Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of

<sup>399</sup> See A/50/670, A/51/348, A/52/305, A/53/211 and A/54/220.

<sup>400</sup> See e.g., A/51/348 and A/52/305.

<sup>401</sup> E S C decision 1996/243.

<sup>402</sup> E/CN.5/1997/5, para. 6 to 33.

<sup>403</sup> E/CN.5/1997/5/Add.1.

<sup>404</sup> E/CN.5/1996/3.

<sup>405</sup> E/CN.5/1997/5.

<sup>406</sup> E/CN.5/1997/3.

<sup>407</sup> See E S C resolutions 1995/60 and 1996/7.

<sup>408</sup> See E/CN.5/1998/4. See also E/CN.5/1998/2, E/CN.5/1998/5, E/CN.5/1999/2, E/CN.5/1999/6 and E/CN.5/1999/7.

<sup>409</sup> Decision 2 of the Preparatory Committee of the Special Session of the General Assembly, organizational session, May 1998.

<sup>410</sup> E/CN.5/1999/4.

<sup>411</sup> *Ibid.*, para.162.

<sup>412</sup> *Ibid.*, para.163.

<sup>413</sup> E/CN.5/1999/3.

the outcome of the Summit". This second report contained proposals on further initiatives to be addressed by the special session of the General Assembly, on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. It emphasized the crucial need for identifying priorities and mandating the elaboration of a few specific initiatives.<sup>414</sup>

d. *Decisions with regard to international migration and development*

87. It will be recalled<sup>415</sup> that the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in September 1994, had identified, *inter alia*, the high levels of migration between countries likely over the following decades ahead, forming an important part of the economic transformations occurring around the world, and presenting serious new challenges. It was agreed that these issues should be addressed with more emphasis within population and development policies, and adopted a number of principles relative to migrants, as well as a set of objectives and actions to be taken.<sup>416</sup> With regard to follow-up at the international level, the role envisioned for the Organization closely reflected the role that would be articulated by the World Summit for Social Development.<sup>417</sup> Generally, the Programme of Action of the International Conference envisioned that the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to the follow-up to the Conference organize a regular review of the implementation of the present Programme of Action. The Economic and Social Council, in the context of its role under the Charter, *vis-à-vis* the Assembly and in accordance with Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, should assist the Assembly in promoting an integrated approach and in providing system-wide coordination and guidance in the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action and in making recommendations in that regard. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was invited to consult with the various bodies of the United Nations system, as well as with international financial institutions and various bilateral aid organizations and agencies, with a view to promoting an exchange of information among them on the requirements for international assistance and to reviewing, on a regular basis, the specific needs of countries in the field of population and development, including emergency and temporary needs, and maximizing the availability of resources and their most effective utilization.<sup>418</sup>

88. During the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations devoted considerable attention to the problem of international migration and development. In 1995, in the context of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and pursuant to the request of in General Assembly resolution 49/127, the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council a report on international migration and development,<sup>419</sup> which contained an overview of migration trends and policies, described the economic and social aspects of international migration and gave the views of Governments regarding the convening of an international conference on international migration and development. The report further stressed that within the United Nations system, different departments and programmes, specialized agencies, and other bodies dealt with various aspects of international migration, either directly or indirectly in terms of its relation to development.

89. By its decision 1995/313, the Council took note of the report, and recommended that the Assembly continue its consideration of the question, including the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development.

90. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/123 entitled "International migration and development" which, *inter alia*, urged Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in this area. The Assembly invited the Commission on Population

<sup>414</sup> *Ibid.*, para.92.

<sup>415</sup> See *Repertory, Supplement No. 8*, under this Article, para. 34.

<sup>416</sup> A/CONF.171/13, chap. X. See also, *ibid.*, chap. II

<sup>417</sup> See section I, B, 3, above.

<sup>418</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. 16, C, paras. 16.18-16.29.

<sup>419</sup> E/1995/69.

and Development to consider, in 1997, the interrelationship between international migration and development, and called upon all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental, regional and sub-regional organizations to address this issue, inviting them to submit their views to the Secretary-General. It further invited the Economic and Social Council to consider including this issue as a theme at its organizational session for 1997.

91. In its resolutions 50/123 and 51/148, the General Assembly took note of the conclusion, on 25 June 1996, of the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It invited the Secretary General to take the appropriate measures to ensure that the needed effective cooperation and liaisons were undertaken. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly adopted, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, resolution 52/189 on "International migration and development" which, as in its precedent resolutions on the same topic, *inter alia* urged Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in this area. It encouraged where relevant the interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question. It called again upon all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations within their continuing mandated activities, to address this issue. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on international migration and development, taking into account the views of Member States and of some organizations as well as specific reports and works of various other organs.

92. By its resolution 52/189, the Assembly, *inter alia*, urged Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned. The Assembly encouraged, where relevant, interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development, and called upon the international community to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people.

93. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/212 on international migration, which reflected the provisions of resolutions 49/127, 50/123, 52/189 on the topic, and noted also the establishment of the International Migration Policy Programme in May 1998 by UNITAR, the IOM and UNFPA, to be implemented in partnership with the ILO, the Office of the UNHCR, the Office of the UNHCHR and other relevant international and regional institutions. It requested further the Secretary-General to solicit more views from Member States and relevant organizations requested in pursuance of resolution 52/189 on the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

94. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/188, a special session of the Assembly was held from 30 June to 2 July 1999 to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. The Commission on Population and Development, acting as a preparatory committee for the special session, negotiated a report containing key actions for the further implementation of the programme. At the end of the session, the Assembly, in its resolution S-21/2, adopted the "Keys actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development" which dedicated one section to the item "International migration".<sup>420</sup> Governments were urged, *inter alia*, to intensify efforts to protect the human rights and dignity of migrants irrespective of their legal status, to prevent trafficking in migrants, to support and ensure effective follow-up to bilateral and multilateral initiatives, to conduct public information campaigns on migration, to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of Their Families if they have not already done so. It was also noted that

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<sup>420</sup> See G A resolution S-21/2, Annex, Chapter II, C and D.

Governments, with the assistance of the international community, should intensify their efforts to improve data collection and analysis in the areas of international migration.

95. The Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Population and Development, adopted at its 1997 session resolution 1997/2 on “International migration and development”, by which the Council, *inter alia*, called upon the Working Group on International Migration of the ACC Task Force on Basic Services for All (see below) to ensure that international migration remained a topic of concentration in its follow-up to the ICPD. The Council, in light of the precedent General Assembly resolutions on the issue, further called upon all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to collaborate and coordinate their efforts, making full use of the expertise of existing organizations, in examining international migration and development.

96. The Secretary-General submitted a number of reports on the subject,<sup>421</sup> which, *inter alia*, transmitted a report by the United Nations Population Fund reviewing progress regarding policies, programmes and other activities regarding international migration taken at the national level since 1994;<sup>422</sup> summarized the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the area of international migration, and presented the views of Governments on the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development.<sup>423</sup> With regard to this latter, the Secretary-General indicated that, based on the views from Government’s responses, the prospects for holding such a conference remained uncertain. The report further described the mechanisms to address issues of international migration and development within and outside the United Nations system.<sup>424</sup> The Secretary-General issued a number of other reports during the period regarding the topic<sup>425</sup> which, *inter alia*, summarized the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the area of international migration, presented the views of Governments on the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development.<sup>426</sup>

97. During the period, a number of bodies were created to consider the outcome of the ICPD, including the question of international immigration. The Secretary-General, in 1995, reported the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force for the implementation of the programme of the ICPD, [hereinafter the “ICPD Task Force”] with the United Nations Population Fund as the lead agency, whose work was expanded to include migration issues.<sup>427</sup> Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/124, the Secretary-General issued a report in September 1996,<sup>428</sup> on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD indicating that the ICPD Task Force, *inter alia*, had established the Working Group on International Migration, with the ILO as the lead agency, and which would produce a guidance note for use by the United Nations resident coordinator system on issues in international migration and development. In 1996, the final guidance notes entitled “Issues in international migration and development” were widely disseminated to all United Nations resident coordinators<sup>429</sup>. For its part, the ACC, in 1995, expanded and reconstituted an inter-agency task force as the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All [hereinafter “the ACC Task Force”] which included a working group on international migration.<sup>430</sup> The Committee for Development Planning also established in 1997 the Working Group on Migration.

<sup>421</sup> See e.g., E/CN.9/1997/5, E/CN.9/1998/7 and E/CN.9/1999/6.

<sup>422</sup> E/CN.9/1997/3.

<sup>423</sup> A/52/314.

<sup>424</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>425</sup> See e.g., E/CN.9/1997/5, E/CN.9/1998/7 and E/CN.9/1999/6.

<sup>426</sup> A/52/314.

<sup>427</sup> E S C resolution 1995/55.

<sup>428</sup> A/51/350.

<sup>429</sup> A/51/350, paras. 4 and 37. See also E/CN.9/1997/4, paras.10 and 11.

<sup>430</sup> A/51/350, paras.7 - 9.

98. Pursuant to Council resolution 1995/55 and 1996/2, the ACC Task Force submitted a report in 1997<sup>431</sup> summarizing the replies from its twelve member organizations to a request for information on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD and presented an overview of the activities of the Task Force, in particular, those of the Task Force's Working Group on International Migration. The Working Group, recognizing the need for more positive information on migration,<sup>432</sup> decided to organize an International Technical Symposium in 1998, covering international migration and refugees, and in addition agreed to update the final guidance notes.<sup>433</sup> Pursuant to a resolution of the Commission on Population and Development, the Working Group on International Migration and Development of the ACC Task Force organized a Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development as part of the follow-up activities for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the ICPD, the World Summit for the Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. A report, issued by the Secretary-General in December 1998,<sup>434</sup> summarized the deliberations that took place during the Symposium. The meeting was attended by technical experts from and representatives of the Organizations and agencies organizing the Symposium and of non governmental organizations. The Symposium examined policy issues on the question, considered ways of improving knowledge on the causes of migration, and assessed the effectiveness of migration policies and related measures at the country level.

99. The question of international migration and development was addressed by a number of subsidiary bodies of the Council. Through its role in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Commission on Population and Development was continuously engaged in the consideration of international migration issues. The Commission considered "International migration" as the central theme for its thirtieth session held in 1997,<sup>435</sup> with a special emphasis on the linkages between migration and development and on gender issues and the family. In the report of the Commission on Population and Development, on its thirtieth session in February 1997,<sup>436</sup> the Commission recommended, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, a draft resolution on international migration and development and adopted three resolutions. During its thirty-second session in March 1999,<sup>437</sup> the Commission on Population and Development considered, *inter alia*, the report of the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the ACC Task Force. At that session, the Commission recommended the Council to adopt a draft resolution requesting the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat to continue its research giving due attention to issues related to, *inter alia*, migration. In addition, in 1997, the United Nations Population Fund submitted a report reviewing progress regarding policies, programmes and other activities regarding international migration taken at the national level since 1994.<sup>438</sup>

100. The Commission on Human Rights adopted two resolutions at its fifty-third session in 1997,<sup>439</sup> referring, respectively, to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families, and to the protection of the human rights of migrants. The Commission on Human Rights examined in 1999 the report of the Working Group of international experts on the human rights of migrants.<sup>440</sup> At the same session, in its resolution 1999/44, the

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<sup>431</sup> E/CN.9/1997/4.

<sup>432</sup> *Ibid.*, para.14.

<sup>433</sup> *Ibid.*, para.15 and 16.

<sup>434</sup> E/CN.9/1999/3.

<sup>435</sup> E/1997/25 (E/CN.9/1997/11).

<sup>436</sup> E/1997/25 (E/CN.9/1997/11).

<sup>437</sup> Report on the 32<sup>nd</sup> session, E/1999/25 (E/CN.9/1999/8).

<sup>438</sup> E/CN.9/1997/3.

<sup>439</sup> Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1997/14 and 1997/15.

<sup>440</sup> E/CN.4/1999/80.

Commission decided to appoint for a three year period a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.<sup>441</sup>

101. The Committee for Development Planning served as a mechanism within the United Nations system for the examination, from a substantive perspective, of issues related to international migration and development, using its expertise to present a cross-sectoral and pragmatic approach to an issue. The Committee decided to examine in 1998 the issue of migration and employment, focusing on: trends in international labour migration and their causes; the interrelationships between the spatial mobility of labour and globalization; the implications of changing labour migration patterns for developing countries; and the policy implications of such movements for both countries of origin and countries of destination. The Committee established a working group to review the information available and prepare a report on the subject.<sup>442</sup>

102. During the period under review, international migration was included in the agenda of several major international conferences following the ICPD, including the Copenhagen International Conference on Social Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth Conference on Women held in 1995 and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1996.

*e. The Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*

103. It will be recalled<sup>443</sup> that, from the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders held in 1990, the principal organs continued to deal with the problem of transnational organized crime and the threat it posed to the rule of law, stability and security of States. The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1995/14, expressed concern that "... problems caused by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development, ...". The Council was further concerned about the links of corruption with other forms of crime, particularly organized crime, economic crime, and money-laundering and was convinced that international co-operation to prevent and control such activities was essential. In the context of organized crime, the principal organs also discussed the issues of trafficking in women and children, the illegal trafficking in and transport of migrants, and the illicit trafficking in firearms.<sup>444</sup>

104. It will also be recalled that, in 1994, the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime had adopted the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (the Naples Action Plan),<sup>445</sup> an element in the implementation of which was the elaboration of international instruments, such as a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime.<sup>446</sup> Moreover, support for a convention or conventions against transnational organized crime had been expressed at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.<sup>447</sup> Thus, the Council, by its resolution 1995/11, taking note of a report by the Secretary-General on proposals relating to the programmatic aspects of the Naples Action Plan,<sup>448</sup> requested the Secretary-General to "... initiate the process of requesting the views of Governments on the opportunity and impact of international instruments such as a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime and on the issues and elements that could be covered therein, ...".

<sup>441</sup> For more discussion of the role of UNHCHR and the ILO in this area, see A/52/314, paras. 32-36.

<sup>442</sup> A/52/314, para 30.

<sup>443</sup> See *Supplement No. 8*, under this Article, section I, B, 1, f.

<sup>444</sup> See e.g., G A resolution 54/127, E S C resolutions 1998/18, 1998/19, and 1998/20.

<sup>445</sup> See *Repertory, Supplement No. 8*, under this Article, para. 219. A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A. Approved by G A resolution 49/159.

<sup>446</sup> A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A. See also E S C resolution 1995/11.

<sup>447</sup> Held at Cairo, Egypt, from 29 April to 8 May 1995.

<sup>448</sup> E/CN.15/1995/2.

105. The Council, by resolution 1996/27, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>449</sup> requested that he continue consultations with Governments on the possibility of elaborating a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime, on the elements that could be included therein, and to make a thorough analysis of their views, taking into account, *inter alia*, the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime.<sup>450</sup> The Council further requested that the Secretary-General submit a report<sup>451</sup> thereon to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth session. In this context, the Council decided that the Commission should establish an in-session open-ended working group for the purpose of, *inter alia*, considering the report and proposals of the Secretary-General and the possibility of elaborating a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime, including the identification of elements that could be included therein.

106. By resolution 51/120, the Assembly took note of the proposed draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime introduced by Poland (draft framework convention).<sup>452</sup> The Assembly, bearing in mind the discussion on the question of the elaboration of such a convention in the Third Committee during its fifty-first session, requested the Secretary-General to invite all States to submit their views on this question, including, *inter alia*, their comments on the proposed draft framework convention. In the same resolution, the Commission was requested, as a matter of priority, to consider the question of the elaboration of such a convention, taking into account the view of all States and report thereon at the Assembly's fifty-second session. The Secretary-General submitted his report in April of 1997.<sup>453</sup>

107. Pursuant to Assembly resolutions 49/159 and 51/120, regional initiatives on organized crime also discussed the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime. Thus, the African Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption unanimously adopted the Dakar Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption and recommended its implementation.<sup>454</sup> The participating States committed themselves both to formulate national and regional positions on provisions. Subsequently, the Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Crime and Corruption adopted unanimously the Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime.<sup>455</sup>

108. At an informal meeting<sup>456</sup> held prior to the Commission's sixth session in 1997, the discussion focused on "... the basic orientation, effectiveness and scope of an international convention ...", taking into account the draft framework convention<sup>457</sup> and views submitted by Member States.<sup>458</sup> The meeting also discussed the need for a clear definition of organized crime and concluded, *inter alia*, that with respect to "...the effectiveness and scope of such a convention, a clear and specific definition of organized crimes would be essential." In this regard, it was noted that various approaches were possible. Regarding the issue of including terrorism in such a convention, the informal meeting concluded that the convention "... would not be the appropriate international instrument ...." and that terrorism was the subject of other international activities within the United Nations.

<sup>449</sup> E/CN.15/1996/2.

<sup>450</sup> Adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 27 to 30 September 1995. *See* E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.

<sup>451</sup> E/CN.15/1997/7, Add.1, and Add.2.

<sup>452</sup> A/C.3/51/7, annex. *See also* E S C resolution 1997/22, annex III.

<sup>453</sup> E/CN.15/1997/7/Add.1.

<sup>454</sup> E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1.

<sup>455</sup> E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2.

<sup>456</sup> Held at Palermo, Italy, from 6 to 8 April 1997. *See* E/CN.15/1997/7/Add.2.

<sup>457</sup> A/C.3/51/7.

<sup>458</sup> E/CN.15/1997/7/Add.1.

109. At the Commission's sixth session, it discussed, *inter alia*, the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime.<sup>459</sup> The Commission reported that a majority of the participants supported the elaboration of such an international instrument and "... emphasized the urgency of undertaking such a task in the light of the worldwide expansion of organized transnational crime."<sup>460</sup> Several participants were of the view that the convention should be an operational instrument, as opposed to a statement of principles. It was pointed out that a gradual approach to elaborating an international convention was desirable and that "[c]onsensus among Member States on basic directions and fundamental elements should be pursued first, in an effort to lay the groundwork for subsequent discussions on the substance of its provisions." The Commission also noted proposals on additional topics to be included, such as extradition, money-laundering, terrorism, trafficking in firearms, trafficking in children, trafficking in illegal migrants, trafficking in nuclear material, confiscation of proceeds of crime, and transfer of proceedings.

110. The report of the Commission's sixth session also annexed the report of the in-session open-ended working group on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, pursuant to Council resolution 1996/27.<sup>461</sup> The working group recognized "... that it was desirable to develop a convention that would be as comprehensive as possible." Several States indicated that their "... reservations on the effectiveness and usefulness of such a convention were contingent upon its scope of application and the measures for concerted action which such an instrument would include." With regard to the issue of definition, some States felt that a definition of the term "organized crime" was not a necessity as it could limit the convention's scope of application considering the rapid evolution of the phenomenon organized crime, while others felt that the absence of a definition would signalize lack of political will and commitment of the international community. It was agreed that the work on arriving at a definition should be undertaken by governmental experts at a future time. In connection with the discussion on the possible list of offences to be included in the convention, some States supported the inclusion of terrorist acts.

111. At its fifty-second session, the Assembly adopted resolution 52/85 upon the recommendation of Council resolution 1997/22.<sup>462</sup> The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's reports submitted to the Commission at its sixth session<sup>463</sup> as well as forty recommendations elaborated and endorsed by the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime.<sup>464</sup> The Assembly further decided to establish an inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts of the Commission (Group of Experts) to elaborate a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime. The Assembly also requested<sup>465</sup> that the Group of Experts give priority consideration to the following issues: measures for judicial and police cooperation, identification of the scope of application of cooperation, and provisions relating to criminal offences and to submit a report to the Commission at its seventh session.<sup>466</sup> The Group of Experts was further requested to indicate the need for special provisions relating to specific types of crime, including trafficking in children, corruption, offences related to firearms, and trafficking in illegal migrants, that may be the subject of international instruments associated with or separate from the draft convention.

112. At the Group of Experts' first meeting in February 1998, it recognized that differences in approaches to various issues needed to be resolved in the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime. The delegations focused on identifying areas of emerging consensus and on the best way to consolidate the consensus. The Chairman noted that the convention should include practical

<sup>459</sup> E/1997/30-E/CN.15/1997/21. See G A resolution 51/120 and *supra* para. 5.

<sup>460</sup> E/1997/30-E/CN.15/1997/21, chap.V, sect. B.

<sup>461</sup> See also E/1997/30-E/CN.15/1997/21, draft resolution I, annex IV.

<sup>462</sup> See E/1997/30-E/CN.15/1997/21, para. 1, draft resolution I.

<sup>463</sup> E/CN.15/1997/7, Add.1, and Add. 2.

<sup>464</sup> E S C resolution 1997/22, annex I.

<sup>465</sup> G A resolution 52/85.

<sup>466</sup> E/CN.15/1998/5.

measures of international co-operation as well as safeguards for the protection of human rights and ensure compatibility with fundamental national legal principles. As to the difficulties of reaching a definition or the overall scope of the convention, it was stressed that the "... value of the convention lay in the creation of obligations for States to take legislative action at the national level, as well as putting in place the mechanisms required for effective actions against transnational organized crime and strengthening their capacity to act and cooperate in that field." In order to solve the issue of definition, several delegations opted to elaborate a main and freestanding convention and additional protocols covering specific offences, such as alien smuggling, trafficking in firearms, and trafficking in women and children and specific measures that may be required thereon. In this connection, the Group of Experts was informed that two States had each submitted proposals for fully-fledged specialized conventions on illegal trafficking in migrants.<sup>467</sup>

113. The Group of Experts further decided to structure its work on the basis of the elements of the convention, such as its scope of application, domestic obligations, jurisdictional matters, judicial co-operation, law enforcement co-operation and exchange of information, prevention, safeguards, and the role of the United Nations.<sup>468</sup> Pursuant to Assembly resolution 52/85,<sup>469</sup> the Group of Experts submitted a non-exhaustive outline of options for the contents of the international convention against organized transnational crime to the Commission, at its seventh session.<sup>470</sup> These options were based on, *inter alia*: the draft framework convention proposed by the Government of Poland;<sup>471</sup> the draft convention for the suppression of transnational organized crime, proposed by the Government of the United States of America;<sup>472</sup> the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;<sup>473</sup> and the recommendations of the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime.<sup>474</sup>

114. The Commission's report on its seventh session<sup>475</sup> welcomed the results of the meeting of the Group of Experts<sup>476</sup> and noted that the agreed principles should be considered in the drafting of the convention against organized crime, particularly on incorporating appropriate safeguards for ensuring the compatibility of the future convention with fundamental national principles. The report also noted that some speakers suggested the inclusion of specific topics in additional protocols.<sup>477</sup> Annexed to the report of the Commission, was the report of the in-session open-ended working group on the implementation of the Naples Action Plan.<sup>478</sup> The working group discussed the options outlined by the Group of Experts<sup>479</sup> and in particular the elements of the convention. The representatives of Canada and Finland submitted a text consolidating the various options by the Group of Experts, reflecting comments and observations made during the discussion of the working group as well as written proposals.<sup>480</sup>

115. By resolution 53/111, the Assembly welcomed the above report of the meeting of the Group of Experts<sup>481</sup> and took note of the Secretary-General's report on the question of the elaboration of an

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<sup>467</sup> E/CN.15/1998/5.

<sup>468</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>469</sup> *See supra* paras. 10 and 11.

<sup>470</sup> E/CN.15/1998/5.

<sup>471</sup> A/C.3/51/7, annex, and E S C resolution 1997/22, annex III.

<sup>472</sup> E S C resolution 1997/22, annex V, appendix, sect. III.

<sup>473</sup> E/CONF.82/15, Corr.1, and Corr.2.

<sup>474</sup> E S C resolution 1997/22, annex I.

<sup>475</sup> E/1998/30-E/CN.15/1998/11. *See also* G A resolution 52/85.

<sup>476</sup> E/CN.15/1998/5.

<sup>477</sup> E/1998/30-E/CN.15/1998/11.

<sup>478</sup> *Ibid.*, annex III.

<sup>479</sup> E/CN.15/1998/5. *See supra* para. 14.

<sup>480</sup> E/1998/30-E/CN.15/1998/11, annex III, appendix I.

<sup>481</sup> E/CN.15/1998/5. *See supra* paras. 14 and 15.

international convention against organized transnational crime and other possible international instruments.<sup>482</sup> Upon recommendation of the Council,<sup>483</sup> the Assembly decided to establish

“... an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea.”

Subsequently, by resolution 53/114, the Assembly called upon the Ad Hoc Committee to devote its attention to the drafting of the main text of such instruments, taking into account the report of the Group of Experts,<sup>484</sup> the report of the working group on the implementation of the Naples Action Plan,<sup>485</sup> and Council resolutions 1998/18, 1998/19, and 1998/20.

116. The *Ad Hoc* Committee undertook its work in 1999 over the course of six sessions<sup>486</sup> on the basis of the new consolidated draft text of the convention against transnational organized crime, produced at its informal preparatory meeting<sup>487</sup> as well as proposals and contributions submitted by Governments.<sup>488</sup> The *Ad Hoc* Committee reported, at its first session,<sup>489</sup> that prior to its consideration of the additional protocols concerning the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, trafficking in women and children, and trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea, it discussed the relationship between those instruments and the convention.<sup>490</sup> As the convention was to be an independent instrument, the additional instruments “... were viewed in principle as optional protocols to the convention, covering areas that required specificity, which the convention could not meet.”<sup>491</sup> At each of its subsequent sessions, the *Ad Hoc* Committee discussed<sup>492</sup> the various articles of the latest version of the protocols,<sup>493</sup> the proposals submitted,<sup>494</sup> and sought to agree upon single texts that would reflect the progress achieved and form the basis for further drafting.

117. Based on the draft resolutions by the Commission, approved by the Council,<sup>495</sup> the Assembly adopted several resolutions on the draft convention and its draft protocols.<sup>496</sup> In addition, by resolution 54/125, the Assembly decided that the Tenth Congress should devote particular attention to ways and means of making the provisions of the draft convention operational, especially taking into account the needs of developing countries in the area of capacity-building.<sup>497</sup>

118. At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly, by resolution 54/129, acknowledged the progress made by the *Ad Hoc* Committee and was mindful of the continued substantive negotiations. The Assembly

<sup>482</sup> E/CN.15/1998/6.

<sup>483</sup> See E S C resolution 1998/14. See also E/1998/30-E/CN.15/1998/11, annex III, and E/1998/30-E/CN.15/1998/11, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II.

<sup>484</sup> E/CN.15/1998/5.

<sup>485</sup> E/1998/30 and Corr.1.

<sup>486</sup> A/55/383.

<sup>487</sup> A/AC.254/4. See also A/55/383.

<sup>488</sup> A/AC.254/5 and Add.2. See also A/55/383.

<sup>489</sup> Held at Vienna, Austria, from 19 to 29 January 1999.

<sup>490</sup> A/AC.254/13 - E/CN.15/1999/5. See also A/55/383.

<sup>491</sup> *Ibid.*,

<sup>492</sup> A/AC.254/13 - E/CN.13/1999/5, A/AC.254/11, A/AC.254/14, A/AC.254/17, A/AC.254/19, A/AC.254/23 and Corr.1. See also A/55/383.

<sup>493</sup> A/AC.254/4/Add.1 and Rev.1, Rev.2, and Rev.3; A/AC.254/4/Add.2, and Rev.1, Rev.2, and Rev.3; A/AC.254/4/Add.3 and Rev.1, Rev.2, Rev.3, Rev.4, and Rev.5; and A/AC.254/8.

<sup>494</sup> A/AC.254/5 and Add.2, A/AC.254/11, annex II, A/AC.254/14, annex II, A/AC.254/17, annex II, A/AC.254/19, annex II, and A/AC.254/23, annex II.

<sup>495</sup> See e.g., E S C resolutions 1999/20, 1999/21, and 1999/22.

<sup>496</sup> See e.g., E/1999/30-E/CN.15/1999/12, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolutions II, III, and IV, subsequently adopted as G A resolutions 54/126, 54/127, and 54/128, respectively.

<sup>497</sup> See also A/54/289 and A/CONF.187/15.

decided to convene a high-level political signing conference in Palermo, recognizing the historic and symbolic importance "... of associating the first international convention against organized transnational crime with the city of Palermo, ...". Subsequently, by resolution 54/131, the Assembly reaffirmed the high priority attached to the elaboration of the draft convention and its protocols, and called upon Member States to make all possible efforts to ensure their rapid development and conclusion.

f. *Action against corruption*

119. The question of action against corruption and bribery had been on the agenda of the United Nations at past sessions of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.<sup>498</sup> The matter had been discussed by the quinquennial congresses, particularly with reference to new forms of criminal activity and crime prevention and planning in the context of development. In this connection, the Secretariat had elaborated a "Manual on practical measures against corruption" and a draft International Code of Conduct for Public Officials.<sup>499</sup> At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly had expressed concern about the corrupt practices of certain transnational and other corporations, their intermediaries and others involved. By its resolution 3514 (XXX), the Assembly had recalled paragraph 4(g) of the Declaration of the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, which had provided for the regulation and supervision of the activities of transnational corporations.<sup>500</sup> Recalling the provisions of section V of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, emphasizing, *inter alia*, the need to formulate, adopt and implement the code of conduct referred to in the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its first session, as well as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,<sup>501</sup> the Assembly had condemned all corrupt practices, including bribery, by transnational and other corporations, their intermediaries and others involved, in violation of the laws and regulations of the host countries. It had furthermore called upon both home and host Governments to take, within their respective national jurisdictions, all appropriate, necessary measures, including legislative measures, to prevent such corrupt practices, and to take consequent measures against the violators. Further work had subsequently been carried out by the Assembly and the Council on the issue of illicit payments and on promoting the development of a code of conduct for transnational corporations, consideration of which helped call attention to and raise international awareness of the adverse consequences of bribery in international commercial transactions.

120. By its resolution 1993/32, the Council had decided to include in the programme of work of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders a one-day discussion in plenary meeting on experiences in and practical measures aimed at combating corruption involving public officials. By resolution 1994/19, the Council recommended that the Ninth Congress, during the plenary discussion on corruption, consider effective ways of coordinating, at the international level, all efforts to tackle corruption and any other form of malfeasance by public officials, particularly the illegal appropriation of public resources, the embezzlement of funds and the bribery of public officials, especially by organized criminal groups, taking into account successful experiences with detection, prevention and control in this respect, and to consider the desirability of a code of conduct for public officials and that the Secretary-General seek comments from Member States and relevant entities, in order to assist the Commission in its consideration of the matter at its fourth session. For its part, the Commission on Crime Prevention worked on the topic during the period 1992-1994.

121. During the period under review, the role of the United Nations system combating corruption lay in "facilitating the constructive participation and orderly interaction of the private sector in the development process by embracing universal principles and norms, such as honesty, transparency and

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<sup>498</sup> A/CONF.169/14, p. 3

<sup>499</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>500</sup> G A resolution 3514 (XXX).

<sup>501</sup> G A resolution 3281 (XXIX).

accountability.<sup>502</sup> Pursuant to the Council's mandate, the Ninth United Nations Congress held a plenary discussion on the topic, drawing on a background paper<sup>503</sup> prepared by the Secretariat, and reported the outcome in the final report of the Congress.<sup>504</sup> A draft international code of conduct for public office holders had been prepared by the Secretariat, pursuant to resolution 7 of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,<sup>505</sup> on the basis of comments by Member States, observations made during the third and fourth sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the input of the five regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress.<sup>506</sup> The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice reviewed the draft and commented on it at its third session. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended, at its fourth session, the adoption of a draft resolution on action against corruption.<sup>507</sup>

122. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1995/14, wherein it expressed its concern about the links of corruption with other forms of crime such as money laundering and organized crime, and with the seriousness of the problems posed by corruption which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development. The Council urged States to develop and implement specific and comprehensive anti-corruption strategies to enhance accountability by adopting and enforcing civil administrative, fiscal and criminal law measures, emphasizing *inter alia*, transparency and fairness, including legislation to regulate and sanction corrupt forms of corporate behaviour. The Council took note of a draft international code of conduct for public office holders, and of the work done in revising the text on the basis of comments received from Governments. The Council requested the Secretary General to continue his consultations with Governments to revise the text further and to submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifth session for consideration and action.

123. At its fifth session, the Commission had considered an April report of the Secretary –General<sup>508</sup> on action against corruption, which included a revised version of the draft code reflecting comments received from 36 Governments.<sup>509</sup> Among the suggestions made in the report for action by the Commission were increasing technical assistance activities of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in the prevention and control of corruption, the elaboration of an international plan of action against corruption, which might include guidelines for action by the United Nations on good governance, and prevention and control of corrupt practices in public institutions and private business. Accordingly, the Secretary General requested the views of Governments on the draft code. In addition, the report described recent initiatives against corruption by international organizations as well as comments by States on the draft code.

124. In its resolution 1996/8, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the 'International Code of Conduct for Public Officials, annexed to that resolution. On the recommendation of the Council, the Assembly, at its fifty-first session, adopted resolution 51/59, by which, concerned with the seriousness of the problems caused by corruption, the Assembly adopted the Code, which addressed general principles on the subject, conflicts of interest and disqualification, disclosure of assets, acceptance of gifts or other favors, confidential information, political activity, reporting disciplinary action and implementation, acceptance of gifts or other favors, confidential information, political activity, reporting disciplinary action and implementation.<sup>510</sup> The Assembly

<sup>502</sup> G A resolution 54/205.

<sup>503</sup> A/CONF/169/14.

<sup>504</sup> A/CONF.169/16/REV.1, chap. 5, A.

<sup>505</sup> By resolution 7, the Congress recommended that States should revise existing legal mechanisms or devise new ones to prevent and respond adequately to all forms of corruption. A/CONF/169/16/Rev.1, paras. 245-261.

<sup>506</sup> See E S C (1995) Supplement No. 10, (E/1995/30), p. 28, draft resolution VII, annex.

<sup>507</sup> E/CN.15/1995/13, para. 69

<sup>508</sup> E/CN.15/1996/5, p. 2 para.2.

<sup>509</sup> E/CN.15/1996/24.

<sup>510</sup> *Ibid.*

recommended it to Member States as a tool to guide their efforts against corruption. It also requested the Secretary General to distribute the Code to all States, as well as to include it in the manual on practical measures against corruption, to be revised and expanded pursuant to Council resolution 1995/14, with a view to offering both those tools to States in the context of advisory services, training and other technical assistance activities. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect information and legislative and regulatory texts from States and relevant intergovernmental organizations. Additionally, it also requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to keep the issue of corruption under regular review.

125. During the period under review, the principal organs also took up the question of international bribery.<sup>511</sup> At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments,<sup>512</sup> the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on the efforts by the United Nations to address the issue of corrupt practices,<sup>513</sup> and work undertaken in other international forums on the issue. The Assembly recommended that the Council consider the appropriate time-frame and procedure for the continuation of work on illicit payments, with a view to completing the draft international agreement on illicit payments.<sup>514</sup> On the recommendation of the Council,<sup>515</sup> the General Assembly, also at its fifty-first session, adopted the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Transactions.<sup>516</sup> The Assembly encouraged private and public corporations, including transnational corporations, and individuals engaged in international commercial transactions to cooperate in the effective implementation of the Declaration. It requested the Secretary General to prepare a report for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-third session, on the progress made towards implementation of the resolution and the steps taken by Member States, international, and regional organizations and other relevant institutions to combat corruption and bribery in international Commercial Transactions, as well as on the results of the work in this regard undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other bodies in the same regard.

126. In response to General Assembly resolution 51/59 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/14, the Secretary General submitted to the Commission a report on Corruption and Bribery, in which he presented an overview of the phenomenon and described initiatives taken by relevant international bodies to prevent it.<sup>517</sup> The Secretary-General also reported that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, with the assistance of the Government of Argentina, organized a meeting of experts from all regions at Buenos Aires in March 1997, to consider ways and means of strengthening international cooperation in this field, as well as to offer suggestions on the revision and expansion of the manual.<sup>518</sup> The Secretary General concluded that corruption in all its forms had commanded such international attention and concern that it had led to an emerging consensus regarding the urgency of concerted action at all levels.<sup>519</sup> Even though international organizations were lending help in fighting corruption through aid for democratic reform, more competitive economies and

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<sup>511</sup> By resolution 2041 (LXI), the Council had established the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on Corrupt Practices to conduct an examination of the problem, in particular bribery, in international commercial transactions by transnational and other corporations, and to elaborate the scope and content of an international agreement to prevent illicit payments. By its resolution 2122 (LXIII), the Council decided that the Working Group should continue its mandate and draft an international agreement on illicit payments. The Council furthermore recommended that the Assembly decide, when it deemed appropriate, to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries to conclude such an agreement. See further E S C decisions 1979/73 and 1980/174; G A decision 35/425.

<sup>512</sup> E/1979/104.

<sup>513</sup> E/1991/31/Add.1.

<sup>514</sup> G A resolution 50/106.

<sup>515</sup> E S C resolution. 1996/51.

<sup>516</sup> G A. resolution 51/191 and annex.

<sup>517</sup> E/CN.15/1997/3.

<sup>518</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 10.

<sup>519</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 88.

the improvement of governance, a more focused effort was needed, involving a systematic attack on systematic corruption.<sup>520</sup> At the international level, in particular, it was essential to enhance the momentum for advancing international agreements and cooperation arrangements, while devoting energy and resources to creating an environment in which corrupt practices would no longer be tolerated.<sup>521</sup>

127. In an effort to assist the Commission in implementing Council resolutions 1995/14 and General Assembly resolutions 51/59 and 51/191, an Expert Group Meeting on Corruption was organized pursuant to an offer by the Government in Argentina and held in Buenos Aires. The Expert Group recommended a series of specific measures for States to prevent and control corruption.<sup>522</sup> Technical cooperation programmes to assist States in strengthening their capacity to meet the threat posed by corruption should a component of the efforts of the international community, including the United Nations and other international organizations, to improve action against corruption.<sup>523</sup> The Group strongly recommended that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should elaborate an international convention against corruption and bribery.<sup>524</sup>

128. The Commission reported, at its sixth session, that it had considered the item entitled "International Cooperation against Corruption and Bribery in international Commercial Transactions".<sup>525</sup> Preventive measures stressed included the establishment or strengthening of already existing auditing institutions or agencies having the authority to scrutinize public expenditures, and the elaboration and introduction of codes of ethics for certain categories of professions.<sup>526</sup> Broad support was expressed for the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials and the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions.<sup>527</sup> Several delegations, while recognizing that action already under way at the national or regional level should continue and be intensified, noted that an international convention against corruption and bribery, in line with General Assembly resolution 51/191, could be a further mechanism against corrupt practices.<sup>528</sup>

129. The Commission welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption.<sup>529</sup> Particular importance was attached to the recommendations of the Meeting, which some participants strongly believed should form the basis for further work aimed at producing useful tools to be used within the framework of technical assistance activities.<sup>530</sup> At its fifty second session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council, adopted resolution 52/87 by which it promoted the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Transactions and of the International Code of Conduct of Public Officials, to criminalize, in an effective and coordinated manner, the bribery of public office holders of other States in international commercial transactions. The Assembly encouraged States to engage in programmatic activities to deter, prevent and combat bribery and corruption, for example by diminishing institutional barriers through the development of integrated management systems and the promotion of legal reform, by encouraging a greater role for citizens in the development of transparent and accountable government, by supporting the active participation of non-governmental organizations in the identification, planning and implementation of initiatives that raise ethical standards and practices in both government and business transactions, and by providing training and technical assistance to other States and developing standards of good

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<sup>520</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>521</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>522</sup> E/CN.15/1997/3/add.1

<sup>523</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>524</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>525</sup> E/CN.15/1997/21.para. 21.

<sup>526</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 23.

<sup>527</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25.

<sup>528</sup> para. 27.

<sup>529</sup> E/CN.15/1997/21 para. 30

<sup>530</sup> *Ibid.*

governance, in particular, accountability and transparency. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to intensify technical assistance to combat corruption, providing advisory services to Member States that request such services.<sup>531</sup>

130. At its 1998 session, the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, adopted resolution 1998/16. By that resolution, the Council requested that the Secretary General in his efforts to update the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption to include in the text a section describing recent development in combating corruption. In addition, the Council decided to convene an open-ended meeting of governmental experts to explore means of ensuring that the initiatives described were effective and that an appropriate international strategy against corruption, including the proceeds thereof, was formulated in consultation with other intergovernmental organizations active in this area.

131. By its resolution 53/176, the General Assembly commended the work of the Commission and the Center for International Crime Prevention of the Secretariat in combating corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, including the convening of an open-ended meeting of government experts. Additionally, it requested the Secretary General in close consultation with the United Nations Conference Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on measures taken by Member States and competent international and regional organizations, non governmental organizations and the private sector to implement the present resolution.”

132. The Expert Group meeting on Corruption and its financial Channels, convened in accordance with Council resolution 1998/16, met in 1999 in Paris and considered issues such as improving international cooperation in combating corruption, national efforts to strengthen international cooperation, and measures to implement the detection of financial flows resulting from corruption.<sup>532</sup> The experts submitted a number of recommendations for combating and controlling the phenomenon, proposing that Member States consider elaborating a universal instrument on the subject, taking into account relevant international best practices, international legal instruments, and the ongoing negotiations on drafting the international convention against transnational organized crime. In that context, it was stated that special attention should be paid to technical cooperation and assistance for developing countries or appropriate regional organizations through implementation of the global programme against corruption developed by UNDCP.<sup>533</sup> The Group considered that the international community needed to equip itself with effective tools to control corruption and curb its detrimental effects on economic and financial systems.<sup>534</sup>

133. The Commission continued its consideration of the topic over its sixth, seventh and eighth sessions.<sup>535</sup>

134. On the recommendation of the Council,<sup>536</sup> the Assembly, at its fifty-fourth session, adopted resolution 54/128 by which, *inter alia*, it took note and subscribed to the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption, and invited Member States to examine the adequacy of their domestic legal regimes in terms of guarding against corruption and providing for forfeiture of the proceeds of corruption. The Assembly stressed the need to develop a global strategy to strengthen international cooperation aimed at the prevention and punishment of corruption by encouraging Member States to become parties to, and to implement the terms of, relevant international conventions and other instruments aimed at fighting corruption, participating in conferences and other forums for the advancement of international efforts against corruption, and exploring the possibilities of developing a global system for peer review regarding the adequacy of practices aimed at combating corruption. It directed the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational

<sup>531</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>532</sup> E/CN.15/1999/10.

<sup>533</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>534</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>535</sup> E/CN.15/1998/11 and E/CN.15/1999/12. *See also* E.CN.15/1998/3.

<sup>536</sup> E S C resolution 1999/22.

Organized Crime to incorporate into the draft Convention measures against corruption linked to organized crime, including provisions regarding the sanctioning of acts of corruption involving public officials. The Assembly requested the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to ensure that the ongoing revision of the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption incorporated the Expert Group Meeting on Corruption and its Financial Channels and to continue to develop, in consultation with Member States, an effective global programme for providing technical assistance to fight corruption.<sup>537</sup>

135. Also at its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee<sup>538</sup> adopted resolution 54/205 condemning corruption, bribery, money-laundering and the illegal transfer of funds. It requested the international community to support the efforts of all countries aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing corruption and bribery, money laundering and the illegal transfer of funds. It decided to keep the matter under review.<sup>539</sup>

*g. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements*

136. By its resolution 47/180, the General Assembly had decided to convene a second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Turkey in 1996, and established a Preparatory Committee, to oversee preparations for the Conference.<sup>540</sup> The Committee submitted regular reports on the progress made towards the Conference.<sup>541</sup>

137. During the period under review, the Assembly approved a number of decisions taken by the Committee,<sup>542</sup> including the draft agenda for the Conference, and submitted them to the Conference for adoption.<sup>543</sup> As part of the mobilization strategy for Habitat II, a series of some 70 international and regional conferences, workshops and seminars were organized to further awareness of the Conference and disseminate information and awareness-building materials.<sup>544</sup>

138. In June 1996, Habitat II adopted the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements<sup>545</sup> and the Habitat Agenda: goals and principles, commitments and global plan of action to improve the human settlements conditions for next 20 years. The Habitat Agenda put forth 10 goals and principles:<sup>546</sup>

I. Equitable human settlements, defined as those in which all people had equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces and such settlements provided equal opportunities with regard to livelihood, access to economic resources and to mechanisms to ensure that rights were not violated.

II. Poverty eradication, based on the framework adopted by the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

III. Sustainable development was essential for human settlements development, giving full consideration to the needs and necessities of achieving economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

IV. The quality of life depended on, among other things, the conditions and spatial characteristics of villages, towns and cities. City lay-out and aesthetics, land-use patterns, population and building densities, transportation and ease of access for all to basic goods, services and public amenities have a crucial bearing on the liveability of settlements. People's need for community and their aspirations for more liveable neighbourhoods and settlements should guide the process of design, management and maintenance of human settlements. Objectives of this endeavour include protecting public health, providing for safety and security, education and social

<sup>537</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>538</sup> A/54/586.

<sup>539</sup> G A resolution. 54/205.

<sup>540</sup> G A resolution 47/180.

<sup>541</sup> A/48/37, A/49/37 and Annex I, A/50/519, A/50/37

<sup>542</sup> G A resolution 50/100, para.1.

<sup>543</sup> A/CONF.165/2.

<sup>544</sup> A/50/519, Annex, para.23.

<sup>545</sup> A/CONF.165/14, annex I.

<sup>546</sup> *Ibid.*, chap II, paras.27-36.

integration, promoting equality and respect for diversity and cultural identities, increased accessibility for persons with disabilities, and preservation of historic, spiritual, religious and culturally significant buildings and districts, respecting local landscapes and treating the local environment with respect and care.

V. As the basic unit of society, the family was entitled to receive protection and support.

VI. All people had rights and also had to accept their responsibility to respect and protect the rights of others – including future generations – and to contribute actively to the common good.

VII. Partnerships among countries and among actors within countries from public, private, voluntary and community-based organizations, the cooperative sector, NGO's and individuals are essential to the achievement of sustainable human settlements development and the provision of adequate shelter for all and basic services.

VIII. Solidarity with those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including people living in poverty, as well as tolerance, non-discrimination and cooperation among all people, families and communities were foundations for social cohesion.

IX. To safeguard the interests of present and future generations in human settlements is one of the fundamental goals of the international community. The formulation and implementation of strategies for human settlements development are primarily the responsibility of each country at the national and local levels within the legal framework of each country, *inter alia*, by creating an enabling environment for human settlements development, and should take into account the economic, social and environmental diversity of conditions in each country. New and additional financial resources from various sources are necessary to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development

X. Human health and quality of life are at the centre of the effort to develop sustainable human settlements. The Conference therefore was committed to promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equal access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and environmental health, and the equal access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social and economic conditions, including housing, without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age, or disability, respecting and promoting our common and particular cultures.

The Habitat Agenda articulated a set of commitments to be pursued by the Conference attendees, including:

- A. Adequate shelter for all;
- B. Sustainable human settlements;
- C. Enablement and participation of all key actors in the public, private and community sectors to play an effective role in human settlements and shelter development;
- D. Gender equality;
- F. Financing shelter and human settlements, and;
- G. Enhancing international cooperation and partnerships that will assist in the implementation of national plans of action and the global plan of action and in the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda by contributing to and participating in multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation programmes and institutional arrangements and technical and financial assistance programmes.

139. With regard to the role of the Organization, the Habitat Agenda recognized all States, the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and in particular the Commission on Human Settlements as the main intergovernmental actors at the global level for the implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda. With regard to the consideration of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development at the intergovernmental level, special consideration should be given to the roles of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.<sup>547</sup>

140. The Agenda of the Conference identified the General Assembly as the highest intergovernmental body, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up of Habitat II.<sup>548</sup> At its fifty-first session, the Assembly should include the follow-up to the Conference in its agenda. The Agenda recommended that the Assembly convene a special session in 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, and a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review

<sup>547</sup> A/CONF.165/14, annex II, chap. 4, sect. F.

<sup>548</sup> A/CONF.165/14, Annex I, p.112, para.217.

and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its role under the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant Assembly and Council resolutions and decisions, would oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and make recommendations in this regard. The Council should be invited to review the follow-up of the Habitat Agenda at its substantive session of 1997. The Conference recommended that the Council convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on the critical issues pertaining to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development as well as on policies for addressing them through international cooperation. In this context, it may consider dedicating one high-level segment before 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda with the active involvement and participation of, *inter alia*, the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.<sup>549</sup>

141. The Habitat Agenda encouraged the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to promote, where appropriate, subregional and regional cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In this regard, the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, could consider convening high-level meetings to review progress made in implementing the outcome of Habitat II, to exchange views on their respective experiences, particularly on best practices, and to adopt appropriate measures.

142. The Agenda envisioned the key role of the Commission on Human Settlements, under the Economic and Social Council, *inter alia*: in promoting integrated and cohesive policies at all levels; tracking progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, *inter alia*, through the analysis of relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and their associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector; assisting countries, particularly developing countries in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve shelter and human settlements problems; promoting greater international cooperation in order to increase the availability of resources to all developing countries; providing appropriate recommendations to the Assembly through the Council on the basis of an analysis and synthesis of the information received and to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development; facilitating cooperation and partnerships among all countries and regions to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development; promoting adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in harmony with the recommendations made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 7 of Agenda 21, taking into account, as appropriate, the relevant outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits, and; continuing to give overall policy guidance to, and carry out supervision of, the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).<sup>550</sup>

143. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was designated as a focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and allotted a number of responsibilities, within its mandate, while fulfilling its primary function in providing substantive servicing to the Commission on Human Settlements and other intergovernmental bodies concerned with adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. Finally, the Habitat Agenda outlined a role for other subsidiary bodies of the Council, within their mandates, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Population and Development, as well as for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring those aspects of the Habitat Agenda that relate to States parties' compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.<sup>551</sup>

144. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/177 by which it endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the Conference. The Assembly reaffirmed that it and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the

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<sup>549</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>550</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>551</sup> *Ibid.*

United Nations and relevant resolutions, together with the Commission on Human Settlements, would constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The Assembly recommended that, at its special session to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, the Assembly give due attention to the issue of human settlements in the context of sustainable development, and reaffirmed that it should consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II. The Assembly also reaffirmed that the Council may convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on the critical issues pertaining to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, as well as on policies for addressing them through international cooperation, and consider dedicating one high-level segment before the year 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

145. As recommended by the Habitat II Agenda,<sup>552</sup> General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,<sup>553</sup> decided by its resolution to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)<sup>554</sup> and to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)”.<sup>555</sup> It urged also the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take further action towards the reform of the administrative and financial management of the Centre pursuant to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as well as the relevant reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors and Commission on Human Settlements.<sup>556</sup>

146. The Assembly took regular decisions for the remainder of the period under review with regard to follow-up to and implementation of Habitat II.<sup>557</sup>

#### h. *Women in development*

147. During the period under review, the principal organs continued to focus on issues relating to economic empowerment of women and the girl child in the context of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>558</sup> and the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001.<sup>559</sup>

148. The adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>560</sup> by the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women intended to speed up the process of implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>561</sup> subsequent to a report on the second review on the Strategies indicating a loss of momentum for its implementation. The Beijing Platform for Action deals with 12 critical areas of concern for women’s full and equal participation in all spheres of life, including economic structures, power sharing, and decision-making, a placing a new emphasis on women in poverty and on the feminization of poverty, keeping in mind the growing recognition that empowerment of women is often key to raising the standard of living of the population as a whole and contributes to economic growth. With respect to integrating women in the development process, the Beijing Platform

<sup>552</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 217-218.

<sup>553</sup> A/52/628/Add.5.

<sup>554</sup> G A resolution 52/190, para.12.

<sup>555</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 15.

<sup>556</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 3.

<sup>557</sup> G A resolutions 52/192, 53/180, 54/209. By resolution 53/180, the Assembly decided to hold the special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Habitat II in June 2001.

<sup>558</sup> A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1.

<sup>559</sup> E S C resolution 1996/34. See E/1996/16, E/1996/26, and E/AC.5/1996/L.5/Add. 34.

<sup>560</sup> A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1.

<sup>561</sup> A/CONF.116/28/Rev. 1. (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.85.IV.10)

for Action contains strategic objectives such as the promotion of women's economic rights, employment, access to market and trades, and the strengthening of women's economic capacity.<sup>562</sup>

149. The majority of the actions contained in the Platform for Action were addressed to Governments and to other actors at the national level, which was stressed by Assembly resolution 50/203 which stated that Governments "... have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, ..." and called upon them to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women. Nevertheless, the Platform for Action elaborated a central role for the Organization with regard to the implementation at the international level, primarily under the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the context of its role under the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, and carried out by the Commission on the Status of Women and other functional Commissions of the Council, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other treaty bodies, the United Nations Secretariat, INSTRAW, UNIFEM, and United Nations specialized agencies and organizations.<sup>563</sup>

150. By resolution 50/42 and 50/203, the Assembly endorsed the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, which aimed at removing obstacles to women's active participation of in all spheres of public and private life, and called for its effective implementation. By its resolution 50/203, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, the Council, and the Commission on the Status of Women would constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up as well as in the co-ordination of implementing and monitoring the Beijing Platform for Action.<sup>564</sup> The Assembly requested<sup>565</sup> the Secretary-General to submit a report on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and the United Nations system to support the follow-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in the most integrated and efficient way<sup>566</sup> and submit annual reports on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.<sup>567</sup>

151. During the period under review, the Organization continued to pursue the goals of the Beijing Platform. The Council decided, by its resolution 1996/6, that the Beijing Platform for Action should be "... implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system during the period 1995-2000, ..." and noted that United Nations institutions devoted to the advancement of women were reviewing their work programmes in the light of the Beijing Platform for Action. By the same resolution,<sup>568</sup> the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should have a "... catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes ..." and adopted a multi-year work programme for the Commission based on the critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action with a view to ensuring its effective implementation. In addition, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare analytical reports<sup>569</sup> on the thematic issues included in the Commission's multi-year work programme. Thus, it was decided that the Commission, at its forty-first session in 1997, should discuss the following issues: i) education and training of women; ii) women and the economy; iii) women in power and decision-making; and iv) women and the environment.<sup>570</sup> Subsequently, by resolution 1997/17, the Council endorsed the Commission's agreed conclusions on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the areas discussed,<sup>571</sup> containing recommendations on actions to

<sup>562</sup> A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1.

<sup>563</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II, Chap. V, C, 1, paras. 306-341.

<sup>564</sup> See also G A resolution 48/162 and E S C resolution 1996/6.

<sup>565</sup> G A resolution 51/69.

<sup>566</sup> See A/51/322, A/52/28, A/53/308, and A/54/264. See also E/1997/64.

<sup>567</sup> See E/1998/53 and E/1999/54. See also E/1997/64. See E/CN.6/1997/2; E/CN.6/1998 and Add 1. Add. 2; and E/CN.6/1999/2 and Add. 1.

<sup>568</sup> E S C resolution 1996/6.

<sup>569</sup> E/CN.6/1997/3 and E/CN.6/1999/4.

<sup>570</sup> E S C resolution 1996/6.

<sup>571</sup> E/1997/27-E/CN.6/1997/9.

be taken by, *inter alia*, Governments, civil society, and the international community, including the United Nations system.

152. During the period under review, the Organization continued to make use of system-wide medium-term plans for the advancement of women as a general framework for the coordination of system-wide efforts. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1993/16, had endorsed the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 as a general framework for the coordination of system-wide efforts, inviting the Secretary General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to arrange for a revision of the system-wide medium-term plan for the period 1996-2001 in light of the second review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Beijing Platform. A draft of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001<sup>572</sup> was submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session in 1996. In that resolution, the Commission recommended, *inter alia*, that the Council adopt the revised draft plan, taking into account the Commission's resolution and its comments contained in an annex to that resolution. It also invited the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, for its consideration of the draft plan, the comments of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination, along with the comments of the Commission. The Commission recommended further that the Council, through the Commission, follow up the implementation of the plan and undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the plan as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system. It recommended that the Council request the formulation of a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, and that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, submit a new draft plan to the Council at its substantive session of 2000, and that the draft of the proposal be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session for comments.<sup>573</sup>

153. At the Nineteenth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women (March 1995), the organizations of the United Nations system agreed on a procedure and timetable for revising the plan. At the Twentieth Meeting, the organizations refined the plan and agreed on its structure and the methodology for its preparation. Written input from the participating entities formed the basis for the preparation of drafts, which were circulated to the organizations of the United Nations system for further input and comments. Each organization was asked to indicate the approach it intended to take to achieve the objectives set out in the Platform for Action and to support actions at the national, regional and international levels, including the main significant outputs to be produced during the period and the methods to be used. Informal meetings took place during the preparatory phase at United Nations Headquarters, and the presence of a large number of focal points at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995) allowed for further consultations. With the Division for the Advancement of Women serving as secretariat and coordinator in the preparation of the plan, it prepared a first outline of the structure and approach of the plan, compiled information, prepared and circulated the various drafts and organized inter-agency meetings to finalize the plan. The structure of the plan adhered to the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, with actions to be carried out by the United Nations system clustered by type of action under each of those critical areas.<sup>574</sup>

154. By resolution 1996/34, the Council endorsed the revised system-wide medium-term plan,<sup>575</sup> taking into account the Commission's comments<sup>576</sup> and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee

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<sup>572</sup> E/CN.6/1996/CRP.2.

<sup>573</sup> E/1996/16, intro.

<sup>574</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>575</sup> E/1996/16.

<sup>576</sup> E/1996/26-CN.6/1995/15, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 40/10, annex.

for Programme and Coordination (CPC).<sup>577</sup> Pursuant to the Council's request at the same session,<sup>578</sup> the Secretary-General submitted a progress report on the plan's mid-term review,<sup>579</sup> summarizing information provided by the United Nations system in 1996 and 1997 on the implementation of the plan's activities and the obstacles encountered. In connection with the critical area of strengthening the capacity and catalytic role of national machinery for the advancement of women, it was noted that activities undertaken had "... focused on the development of gender-sensitive performance indicators, increased visibility and inclusion of gender issues in policies and programmes, and gender-sensitive development planning."<sup>580</sup> With regard to the girl child, the report further noted the support for programmes addressing illiteracy and advocacy for the rights of the girl child, education, and girls in the work place.

155. In the same report,<sup>581</sup> the Secretary-General proposed recommendations to further a co-ordinated and cohesive approach to the work of the United Nations system in relation to the system-wide medium-term plan and the Beijing Platform for Action in the second half of the plan's term, building, *inter alia*, on the Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming.<sup>582</sup> Subsequently, the Council adopted resolution 1998/11<sup>583</sup> by which it endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations and stressed in particular the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the formulation and implementation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. A 1998 report<sup>584</sup> by the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action noted that the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality,<sup>585</sup> at its third session, made further progress in improving co-ordination and strengthening co-operation in support of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and of gender mainstreaming.

156. By resolution 1999/16, the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit, in 2001, a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the years 2002-2005 in two phases. The first phase would consist of an assessment of activities undertaken by the United Nations system and obstacles encountered, as well as lessons learned from the present plan and its system-wide implementation. The second phase should consist of a new plan that reflected the growing emphasis on action and delivery.<sup>586</sup>

157. The principal organs examined numerous aspects pertaining to the advancement of women and the goals of the Beijing Platform. For example, the Council decided that the Commission, at its forty-second session in 1998, should discuss, *inter alia*, the issue of the girl child.<sup>587</sup> By resolution 53/127, the Assembly called upon States and international and non-governmental organizations to implement the conclusions adopted by the Commission on education and empowerment of the girl child.<sup>588</sup> In 1999, the Commission discussed, *inter alia*, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women.<sup>589</sup> By its agreed conclusions, endorsed by Council resolution 1999/17, the Commission recognized that "... gender mainstreaming is a tool for effective policy-making at all levels and not a substitute for targeted, women-specific policies and programmes, equality legislation, national machineries for the advancement of women and the establishment of gender focal points." On several occasions, the Assembly noted the importance of a life-cycle perspective when implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. Thus, by resolution 50/154, the Assembly recalled that "... the advancement and empowerment of women

<sup>577</sup> E/AC.5/1996/L.5/Add.34.

<sup>578</sup> E S C resolution 1996/34.

<sup>579</sup> E/CN.6/1998/3.

<sup>580</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>581</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>582</sup> A/52/3/Rev.1, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>583</sup> See also E/1998/27-E/CN.6/1998/12, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>584</sup> E/CN.6/1998/53.

<sup>585</sup> See also E/1997/54 and *Repertory, Supplement 9*, under Article 64.

<sup>586</sup> See also E S C resolution 1996/34, G A resolutions 51/69 and 52/100.

<sup>587</sup> E S C resolution 1996/6.

<sup>588</sup> E/1998/27, chap. I, sect. B. IV.

<sup>589</sup> E S C resolution 1996/6.

throughout their life-cycle must begin with the girl child ...” and that discrimination against the girl child was identified as a critical area of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action.<sup>590</sup> Further, by resolution 54/148, the Assembly stressed the importance of a “... substantive assessment of the implementation of the Platform for Action with a life-cycle perspective so as to identify gaps and obstacles in the implementation process and to develop further actions for the achievement of the goals of the Platform for Action.” With regard to the girl child, the Assembly urged States to prepare programmes for the girl child as part of their national action plans in order to fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>591</sup> and to base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child.<sup>592</sup>

158. The improvement of the situation of women in rural areas remained a matter of concern for the Assembly throughout the period under review. By resolution 50/165, the Assembly invited Member States to integrate the issue of rural women in national development policies and programmes; increase their participation in the decision-making process; and undertake necessary measures to provide full and equal access to productive resources, including credit/capital and the right to, *inter alia*, inheritance and ownership of land. The Assembly also requested that the international community and the relevant United Nations organizations and bodies “... promote the realization of the programmes and projects aimed at the improvement of the situation of rural women ...”<sup>593</sup> In 1997, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas that paid attention to, *inter alia*, the role of women in agriculture and food security.<sup>594</sup> The report underlined the importance of strengthening the productive and reproductive capacity of women farmers and entrepreneurs, and noted that the development of “... legal measures, policies and administrative regulations to guarantee rural women equal and secure rights of access to land ...” was a priority. By resolution 52/93, the Assembly invited Member States to design and revise laws to ensure that women have equal access to and control over land. Subsequently, in his 1999 report<sup>595</sup> on the situation of women in rural areas, the Secretary-General noted that, based on replies from 14 Governments and eight United Nations entities, most Governments had passed laws to secure the access of rural women to productive resources and that United Nations entities were engaged in supporting those national efforts. The report further outlined the impact of global trends and their policy implications for the situation of rural women, and showed that changing patterns of financial flows to developing countries forced countries to pursue policies such as privatization of productive assets, which tended to exacerbate the socio-economic marginalization of rural women.

159. Recognizing that the existence of difficult socio-economic conditions in many developing countries had resulted in rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and female-headed households, the Assembly stressed the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities.<sup>596</sup> In its follow-up resolution 1998/43 to its agreed conclusions 1997/2,<sup>597</sup> the Council decided to pay particular attention to the feminization of poverty when reviewing the theme of poverty eradication in 1999 and ensure a gender perspective when reviewing the implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits. In this regard, the Assembly endorsed the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in strengthening women’s economic capacity, and encouraged women to become key economic players in combating the feminization of poverty, strengthening women’s leadership, and political empowerment.<sup>598</sup>

160. In the context of implementing gender perspectives into economic policies, the Assembly called upon the United Nations system to support “... developing countries in their efforts to integrate gender

<sup>590</sup> See A/CONF.177/20.Rev.1.

<sup>591</sup> G A resolution 53/127.

<sup>592</sup> G A resolution 54/148.

<sup>593</sup> G A resolution 50/165.

<sup>594</sup> A/52/326.

<sup>595</sup> A/54/123-E/1999/66. See also G A resolution 52/93.

<sup>596</sup> G A resolution 50/104.

<sup>597</sup> A/52/3/Rev.1, chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>598</sup> G A resolution 52/94.

concerns into national programmes and to implement those programmes, including by providing adequate resources for operational activities for development;”<sup>599</sup> By the same resolution,<sup>600</sup> the Assembly further called upon the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies in accordance with the agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming.<sup>601</sup> In this connection, the principal organs commended the efforts of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) to address all levels of poverty that hampered the advancement of women and encouraged INSTRAW to develop active and close co-operation with the United Nations system.<sup>602</sup> Subsequently, by resolution 1998/43, the Council reaffirmed that its agreed conclusions 1997/2 should be implemented as a matter of urgency and called upon all parts of the United Nations system to take immediate action in this regard. The Secretary-General submitted a report on the implementation of the Council’s agreed conclusions 1997/2 into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, so that the Council could take any action necessary to ensure their full implementation.<sup>603</sup>

161. A 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development applied gender analysis to the unpaid sector of the economy, fiscal policies, and trade liberalization policies.<sup>604</sup> The report outlined principles that were a prerequisite for mainstreaming the gender perspective into economic policies and that such mainstreaming should be effected in line with specified conditions, in conformity with the Beijing Platform for Action, in addition to offering insights into macroeconomic policy-making.<sup>605</sup> However, it was noted that, as gender analysis was still not a routine part of economic analysis and policy-making, the practical implications of gender analysis and policy implications were still limited. The Assembly took note of the report by its resolution 52/195.

162. In connection with the new approach of gender responsive development, the Assembly requested that Governments include priorities of women in, and that women fully participate in, decisions on public investment programmes for, *inter alia*, economic infrastructure, technology, and water supply.<sup>606</sup> By resolution 52/195, the Assembly urged Governments to increase women’s access to credit by instituting innovative lending practices and to “... provide outreach programmes to inform low-income women and poor-women, ... of opportunities for market and technology access and to provide ... assistance in taking advantage of ...” opportunities such as the promotion of strengthening of microenterprises, new small businesses, co-operative enterprises, the expansion of markets, and other employment opportunities.<sup>607</sup> The Assembly also stressed the need to ensure that women and girls have full and equal access to education, vocational training, and retraining programmes to improve their employment opportunities as well as to have access to new technologies for their empowerment.<sup>608</sup>

163. By decision 1997/319, the Council decided that the high-level meeting of the operational segment of its substantive session of 1998 would be devoted to the advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity building and resources mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development. Pursuant to a request by the informal meeting of delegations prior to the Council’s 1998 substantive session, the Secretary-General submitted a report, taking into account decisions and consultations on gender and information received from resident co-ordinators/representatives and Governments.<sup>609</sup> Subsequent to the

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<sup>599</sup> GA resolution 52/195.

<sup>600</sup> *Ibid.*,

<sup>601</sup> A/52/3/Rev.1. *See also* G A resolution 54/210.

<sup>602</sup> G A resolution 50/163 and E S C resolution 1996/39.

<sup>603</sup> E/1998/64.

<sup>604</sup> A/52/345.

<sup>605</sup> *Ibid.*, *See also* G A resolution 50/104.

<sup>606</sup> *See* G A resolutions 52/195 and 54/210.

<sup>607</sup> G A resolution 52/195.

<sup>608</sup> G A resolution 54/210.

<sup>609</sup> *See* E/1998/54 and Corr.1.

high-level meeting, the Council stressed that national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system should be country-driven and that gender analysis and perspective should be fully incorporated therein.<sup>610</sup> The Assembly further emphasized the important work of UNIFEM<sup>611</sup> relating to the Beijing Platform for Action on the issues of empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming, and requested its continued efforts with regard to operational activities.<sup>612</sup>

164. At the high-level segment of its 1999 substantive session, entitled “The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women”, the Council adopted a ministerial communiqué, by which Ministers and Heads of Delegations affirmed their commitment to adopting effective poverty-eradication strategies that addressed employment creation and gender specific policies.<sup>613</sup> The communiqué noted that “... an effective development strategy could include targeting key economic sectors for employment-intensive growth, including agriculture and non-traditional sectors.” The communiqué also recognized that “... strategies for stimulating the development of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as other forms of self-employment, including through entrepreneurial training, especially for women can encourage employment creation and lead to poverty eradication.” The outcome of the high-level segment’s consideration was transmitted to the Assembly, as input for the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development.<sup>614</sup>

165. By resolution 52/231, the Assembly decided that the high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies<sup>615</sup> and the Beijing Platform for Action should be held as a special session of the General Assembly from 5 to 9 June 2000, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”. Subsequently, by resolution 54/148, the Assembly requested that the rights and needs of the girl child also be taken duly into account and integrated in all activities in the preparation of the special session.

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

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<sup>610</sup> E S C resolution 1998/26.

<sup>611</sup> See G A resolution 39/125 on the establishment of UNIFEM as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>612</sup> G A resolution 54/136.

<sup>613</sup> A/54/3/Rev.1.

<sup>614</sup> E S C resolution 1999/55.

<sup>615</sup> A/CONF.116/28/Rev.1.