

Chapter XI

Children, youth and ageing persons

In 1998, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its efforts to improve the situation of children worldwide, particularly those living in poverty. UNICEF global advocacy and alliance-building efforts focused on promoting children's rights, while its programmes continued to highlight development goals established at the 1990 World Summit for Children. Programme priorities for 1998 emphasized reducing childhood death, illness and disability; reducing maternal mortality and morbidity; improving children's access to and quality of education; and protecting them from exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF joined other UN bodies in continuing to promote adherence to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (see PART TWO, Chapter I). The General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights took action during 1998 to protect the rights of children in a variety of circumstances, including meeting the needs of the girl child (see PART THREE, Chapter X) and protecting children in situations of armed conflict (see PART TWO, Chapter II). The protection of children from the impact of armed conflict was also addressed in June by the Security Council (see PART TWO, Chapter II). In November, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, proclaimed the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (see PART TWO, Chapter I).

United Nations activities concerning young people remained focused on implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which called on Governments to adopt national youth policies and a cross-sectoral approach to addressing youth's concerns. In 1998, the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, Portugal, 8-12 August) adopted the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, which built on the 1995 Programme of Action by outlining further policy commitments for Governments. Prior to the Conference, the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Braga, Portugal, 2-7 August) adopted the Braga Youth Action Plan, which called for the empowerment of young people to enable their participation in human development.

As part of ongoing efforts to support ageing persons, the United Nations proceeded with preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999). The Assembly, in December, noted the launching on 1 October 1998 of the International Year, with the theme "A society for all ages", and encouraged States, UN organizations and other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the challenge of the demographic ageing of societies. The Commission for Social Development reviewed implementation of the 1982 International Plan of Action on Ageing, which dealt with areas of concern to older persons, such as health, housing, income security and social welfare.

Children

United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), bolstered by nearly universal acceptance of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p.560], made human rights the guiding force of its country programmes. Of primary importance to the rights-based programming approach was increasing access to education, health services, immunization, safe water and sanitation, as well as overcoming some of the fundamental obstacles to development, such as weak community participation, wide income gaps and inequity in access to basic social services.

Priority was given to early childhood care, adolescent health and development, and the collection of data on children and women. UNICEF programmes also aimed to address the causes of poverty, break the persistent patterns underlying inequality, violence and wasted human potential, and support children and women in critical periods of their life cycle—early childhood, the primary school years, adolescence and the reproductive years.

Among its 1998 activities, UNICEF assisted in health campaigns to eradicate polio and control malaria; helped restore schooling and other social services in 55 countries in crisis; and advised countries on how to incorporate rights into laws

and policies. UNICEF also focused on protecting children in crisis, including situations of armed conflict, abuse and exploitation. Promoting global advocacy for children's rights was furthered through UNICEF's major annual publications, including *The State of the World's Children 1998*, which addressed the devastating impact of malnutrition, and *The Progress of Nations*, which provided comparative data on progress made by countries in achieving goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children [YUN 1990, p. 797] and in implementing the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (see PART TWO, Chapter I). The General Assembly, in **resolution 53/128**, called for action on the rights of the child, including implementation of the Convention. In addition, the Assembly addressed the needs of the girl child in **resolution 53/127**.

UNICEF cooperated with 161 countries, areas and territories in 1998: 46 in sub-Saharan Africa; 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 33 in Asia; 20 in the Middle East and North Africa; and 27 in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States.

Programme expenditures totalled \$785 million in 1998, of which 32 per cent was spent on child health; 24 per cent on planning, advocacy and cross-sectoral support; 14 per cent on education and early childhood development; 13 per cent on community development, women's programmes, and measures for children and women in need of special protection; 11 per cent on water and environmental sanitation; and 6 per cent on child nutrition. In addition, \$97 million, or 11 per cent of total expenditure, was spent on management, administration, write-offs and other charges. UNICEF operations in 1998 were described in the 1999 UNICEF Annual Report and the report of the Executive Director [E/ICEF/1999/4 (Pans I & II)].

The UNICEF Executive Board held its first regular session of 1998 from 26 to 28 and on 30 January, the annual session from 1 to 5 June, and the second regular session from 8 to 11 September, all in New York [E/1998/35/Rev.1]. During those sessions, the Board adopted 22 decisions.

The Economic and Social Council, in **decision 1998/286** of 31 July, took note of the Board's report on its first regular session of 1998 and the decisions adopted by the Board at its annual session.

By **decision 52/502** of 8 September, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences, authorized the Board to meet in New York during the main part of the Assembly's fifty-third (1998) session.

In September [dec. 1998/19], the Board adopted the dates and programme of work for its 1999 sessions. The first regular session would be held

from 19 to 22 January, the annual session from 7 to 11 June, and the second regular session from 7 to 10 September.

Programme policies

In decisions related to UNICEF's programme policies, the Executive Board approved the priorities for action set forth in the medium-term plan for 1998-2001, which emphasized a rights-based programming approach [dec. 1998/22], and adopted a programme of work for 1999 [dec. 1998/19]. It also endorsed the Fund's polio eradication efforts [dec. 1998/12], as well as measures that would accelerate progress towards achieving by the year 2000 goals established by the World Summit for Children [dec. 1998/13].

Follow-up to 1990 World Summit for Children

In March, UNICEF submitted to the Executive Board its annual progress report [E/ICEF/1998/8] on follow-up to the 1990 World Summit for Children [YUN 1990, p. 797], covering 1997. The report provided a global overview of progress towards the major Summit goals and identified priority actions to accelerate progress towards the goals during the period 1998-2000. In addition, it contained information on actions taken to respond to the needs of children requiring special protection measures, such as those affected by child labour, sexual exploitation and disabilities. It also included an annex on steps taken to implement the strategy for improved nutrition of children and women in developing countries.

General progress had been made towards the Summit goals and the significant progress at mid-decade had been sustained in the majority of countries. However, it appeared that achieving year 2000 targets set for major Summit goals would be difficult at the global and many regional levels. Only East Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States, and the industrialized countries appeared to be on track to achieve the basic education target, the industrialized countries alone for the under-five mortality target, and no region for the malnutrition, safe water and sanitation or adult literacy targets. Issues requiring urgent consideration included the continuing rise in poverty, sharp declines in official development assistance and the allocation of resources to basic social services, the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and the increasing number of humanitarian emergencies affecting children.

Several short-term priorities for UNICEF emerged from an internal review of progress towards the end-decade Summit goals: strengthening the capacities of families and communities

to act as the first line of protection for children; supporting better collection, monitoring and utilization of data at national and regional levels; focusing on direct assistance to countries with the highest under-five mortality rates; devising an integrated approach to early childhood care and development that addressed the physical, emotional and intellectual development of children; giving greater emphasis to reducing maternal mortality; renewing efforts to sustain the drive for universal child immunization and improving the situation related to several other diseases and health-care issues; expanding and improving the quality of basic education, ensuring equal opportunities for disadvantaged girls and children; and advocating the rights of children in need of special protection to ensure that they received priority attention from national authorities and other relevant partners.

Although the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action had been endorsed by 181 countries, it was necessary to enhance national and international efforts if the Summit goals were to be achieved, the report stated.

On 5 June [dec. 1998/13], the Executive Board, noting overall progress made in implementing the Declaration and its contribution to the realization of children's rights, recognized that efficient measures needed to be taken to reach the Summit goals for 2000. The Board asked the Executive Director to support the Secretary-General in preparing his report to the fifty-third (1998) session of the General Assembly on the preparation of the Assembly's special session in 2001 to review achievement of the Summit goals. It also recommended that the Economic and Social Council take appropriate actions to highlight the need to achieve those goals.

Report of Secretary-General. In July, the Secretary-General, in response to Assembly resolution 51/186 [YUN 1996, p. 1083], submitted a report on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review the achievement of the goals and targets agreed upon at the World Summit for Children for the year 2000 [A/53/186]. The report included an update on progress towards the end-decade goals and highlighted the major challenges that remained in order to keep the Summit's promises for children.

The report concluded that, while there had been important progress since mid-decade in meeting many of the targets agreed upon in 1990, much remained to be done if all the goals for children were to be accomplished at the global level by 2000. Governments were called on to renew Summit commitments, which, according to the report, could be met with strong political com-

mitment, widespread participation of stakeholders and the provision of adequate resources and international support. The report also related Summit follow-up to the coordinated follow-up by the UN system to the major summits and conferences of the 1990s.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/53/610], adopted **resolution 53/193** without vote [agenda item 95].

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/186 of 16 December 1996,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children;

2. Decides to postpone to its fifty-fourth session consideration of the arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the Summit.

Medium-term plan

In July, UNICEF issued its medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 [E/ICEF/1998/13 & Corr.1]. During formulation of the plan, UNICEF took into consideration the lessons learned in the process of implementing the Plan of Action of the 1990 World Summit for Children [YUN 1990, p. 797] and through the near universal ratification of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (see PART TWO, Chapter I). More so than in the past, the medium-term plan for 1998-2001 was the result of a planning process that involved all parts of UNICEF. It included a brief analysis of the global context for children, as well as the opportunities, threats and issues that influenced their lives. It also outlined a vision for children into the twenty-first century and assessed UNICEF's strengths and weaknesses and the criteria used to select its organizational priorities. For the first time, a funding target was estimated for the plan period (see below, under "UNICEF finances").

Organizational priorities outlined in the plan indicated that UNICEF would focus on reducing young child mortality and morbidity; improving early childhood care for child growth and development; preventing childhood disabilities; improving adolescent health and development; providing protection from exploitation, violence and abuse; preventing gender discrimination and promoting gender equality; and reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. Implementation of those priorities was to be guided by the principles

of a child-focused (rather than sector-focused), decentralized and participatory approach; promoting equity and non-discrimination of women and girls, as well as reducing social and geographic disparities within countries; emphasis on process as well as results, thereby strengthening local capacities; learning from experience; and collaboration with UN partners. During the plan period, UNICEF would continue to deploy its three principal strategies of service delivery, capacity-building and advocacy/social mobilization.

The Board, on 11 September [dec. 1998/22], approved the medium-term plan as a framework for UNICEF action for the period 1998-2001, and noted the inclusion of funding targets (see below) and its emphasis on strengthening performance management. It also approved the priorities for UNICEF actions set forth in the plan, with special emphasis on the achievement of the World Summit goals and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and asked the Executive Director to assess progress towards those priorities in her annual report. The Board expressed support for the rights-based approach reflected in the plan and welcomed the Executive Director's intention to elaborate on it further. It also approved a financial medium-term plan for 1998-2001 (see below, under "Budget appropriations").

Child protection policy review

In response to a 1997 Executive Board request [YUN 1997, p. 1211], UNICEF submitted a March 1998 report [E/ICEF/1998/CRP.II] on progress made in implementing the UNICEF policy on children in need of special protection measures, which was adopted in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1211]. The report focused on the integration of protection issues within UNICEF country programmes. It highlighted prevention and target responses, capacity-building, relevant partnerships and information gathering. Based on reports from 75 countries surveyed, the report stated that more than three quarters (58) were addressing child protection issues; of those, two thirds (38) had mainstreamed protection concerns within other areas, such as education, social mobilization, health, early childhood care and development, and community-based integrated development.

Based on knowledge and organizational capacity, it had become clear that, in implementing the new policy, UNICEF global action should focus mainly on the following areas: the elimination of child labour; the protection of children affected by armed conflict; prevention and protection to address childhood disability; and efforts to end the sexual abuse and exploitation of children (see

also PART TWO, Chapter II). Other important issues were juvenile justice, child-headed households and children orphaned by AIDS.

The report concluded that progress in implementing the new policy had left UNICEF in a better position to contribute to achieving the goals of the World Summit. Through capacity-building and other efforts, the Fund was also organizationally well placed to make a significant difference in the areas of child labour, commercial sexual exploitation of children, childhood disability, the impact of armed conflict, the AIDS pandemic and juvenile justice.

The Security Council, at a 29 June meeting, issued a statement [S/PRST/1998/18] expressing its concern at the harmful impact of armed conflict on children (see PART TWO, Chapter II).

In related action, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1998/31), proclaimed 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (resolution 53/25) (see PART TWO, Chapter I).

Health strategy

Noting a 1997 report on UNICEF health strategy [YUN 1997, p. 1211], the Executive Board, on 5 June [dec. 1998/12], endorsed the Fund's polio eradication efforts in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society. The Board reaffirmed its goal of polio eradication by the year 2000, but expressed concern at gaps in funding and programming, which created barriers to achieving the eradication target. It also called for polio eradication to be accomplished in such a way as to build capacity in developing health systems.

Follow-up to ICPD

In response to a 1995 Executive Board request [YUN 1995, p. 1194], UNICEF issued a March report [E/ICEF/1998/9] on its activities in response to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) [YUN 1994, p. 955]. UNICEF follow-up to ICPD included programmes for girls' education; women's empowerment; primary health care and child survival; reproductive health, with a focus on maternal mortality reduction; and measuring progress in child and maternal mortality.

The report concluded that substantial progress had been made in implementing many of the central tenets of the ICPD Programme of Action. While much remained to be done, particularly to reduce maternal and under-five mortality

and to eliminate discrimination against women, the essential strategies had become clear and there were several examples of best practices to provide UNICEF with information for its continuing action. UNICEF's comparative strength in ICPD follow-up included its country programme approach, its ability to work effectively with a variety of partners, and a multisectoral approach to ICPD goals. In June [dec. 1998/10], the Executive Board took note of the report.

Maurice Pate Award

The Executive Director recommended that the Maurice Pate Award for 1998 be presented to the Pacific Regional Human Rights Education Resource Team and that the Executive Board approve an allocation of \$25,000 from general resources for that purpose [E/ICEF/1998/5]. Established in 1966 [YUN 1966, p. 385], the Award was presented to the Team in recognition of its significant contribution to human rights education, including child rights, through a pioneering role in developing an awareness and knowledge of human rights in the Pacific region. The Team was dedicated to improving the capacity of government and civil society organizations, with a focus on the legal and human rights of women and children. On 30 January [dec. 1998/7], the Board agreed with the recommendation and approved the allocation.

UNICEF programme expenditure

During 1998, regional UNICEF expenditures in support of cooperation programmes totalled \$784 million, \$291 million of which was spent for 46 programmes in Africa; \$228 million for 33 programmes in Asia; \$91 million for 37 programmes in the Americas and the Caribbean; \$83 million for 18 programmes in the Middle East and North Africa; and \$42 million for 27 programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States. Another \$49 million was spent for interregional programmes. Overall, the total programme expenditure represented a decline of 9 per cent compared to 1997, which was attributable to a range of country-specific situations, the majority of which were beyond UNICEF control. In some cases, implementation of planned activities was hampered by the effects of the financial crisis on the capacity of government counterparts, especially in Asia and parts of the Americas; in other instances, by the temporary diversion of efforts from regular programme activities to urgent responses to natural disasters and conflict, particularly in Central America and parts of Africa. Actions had been initiated to as-

sess specific reasons for underexpenditure in each region in order to identify corrective measures.

The major portion of UNICEF resources continued to be made available to and spent in the 63 low-income countries with a per capita income of \$785 or less. Those countries, which had a child population of 1.3 billion or 69 per cent of all children worldwide, received two thirds of UNICEF programme expenditure, 1 per cent more than in 1997.

Approval process for country programme recommendations

In response to a 1995 Executive Board request [YUN 1995, p. 1206], UNICEF submitted a June report, which reviewed procedures for the approval process of country programme recommendations [E/ICEF/1998/P/L.22]. The report described experiences with implementing the procedures adopted in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1206], including summaries of the themes and issues relative to country notes, mid-term reviews of country programmes and major programme evaluations on which the Executive Board had commented during the past three years.

UNICEF concluded that the assessment of the pilot experiences of 18 countries with respect to the recent establishment of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (see PART THREE, Chapter II), to be completed at the country level by December 1998, would have significant implications for its ongoing collaboration with other funds and programmes and for further economizing and streamlining its own programme procedures. In September [dec. 1998/16], the Executive Board asked to be informed, no later than the second regular session in 1999, if any changes to the approval process were required as a result of the findings of the assessment of the UNDAF pilot phase.

Field visits

In February, UNICEF Executive Board members visited Bangladesh, Guinea and Mali. The delegation observed a variety of UNICEF-supported projects and met with UNICEF country office staff, government officials, NGOs and representatives of other UN agencies, as well as the beneficiaries of UNICEF programmes in those countries.

The team found that projects in Bangladesh were focused and being carried out by highly motivated UNICEF staff and government counterparts. The recipients of and participants in those services felt that their lives and the lives of their families and communities had been improved as

a result of the interventions. The shift by UNICEF to a child-rights-based approach resulted in a greater challenge for implementation at the field level, as Bangladesh now participated in a wider range of activities in various sectors, all inter-related. The delegation found that the chief advantages of UNICEF's operations in Bangladesh were its large field presence; expertise in such areas as supply and procurement and communication strategies; name recognition and image; flexibility of structure; and its brokering role between the Government, local NGOs, private sector entities and other external partners. The team had concerns regarding capacity-building, empowerment and sustainability, as well as the country office's style of operation, particularly in the context of UN reform.

In Guinea, the team examined UNICEF projects in relation to health and nutrition; basic education; water and sanitation; communication and advocacy; and support for human development. It observed a spirit of partnership between the UNICEF office and Guinea government officials, which enabled, among other things, the development of creative solutions to address elements of traditional practices that negatively affected the welfare of women and children. The delegation expressed concern that, although collaboration existed between UNICEF and other UN partners in the planning stages of programme development, there was difficulty in the collaborative execution of the programmes.

In Mali, one of the poorest countries, the delegation found the various field projects—which emphasized protection, survival, development and social sector planning and advocacy—to be focused, with clear objectives. The Government, with UNICEF assistance, was shifting to a rights-based approach to basic services. Cooperation between government officials and UNICEF staff was excellent and both parties were knowledgeable about the aims of projects being implemented.

UNICEF programmes by sector

As in previous years, the major share of UNICEF programme expenditure continued to be in the area of health (\$207 million or 26 per cent), followed by child-focused advocacy, planning, capacity-building and other cross-sectoral programmes, including social mobilization and statistics (\$155 million or 20 per cent). Significant shares of expenditure were also directed to basic education (\$93 million or 12 per cent), water and environmental sanitation (\$67 million or 9 per cent), nutrition (\$37 million or 5 per cent) and other key developmental activities (\$85 million or 11 per cent).

Child and adolescent health

As a main health-related programme priority, in 1998, UNICEF aimed to reduce young child mortality and morbidity, improve early childhood care for child growth and development, prevent childhood disability, improve access to and quality of basic education, improve adolescent health and development and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

To accelerate progress towards meeting the World Summit for Children goals of improving child survival and health by the year 2000, UNICEF emphasized breastfeeding and other key elements of children's well-being, such as basic health care, education and access to safe water and sanitation. By the end of 1998, breastfeeding protection, promotion and support had been adopted by nearly 15,000 hospitals that met the global criteria of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, spearheaded by UNICEF and WHO. The two organizations cooperated on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme that combined strategies for control and treatment of five major killers of young children—respiratory tract infections, diarrhoeal dehydration, measles, malaria and malnutrition—through strengthening health services, upgrading skills of health workers and improving the care provided by families and communities. During 1998, 20 countries introduced the IMCI programme, bringing to 58 the number of countries that had adopted it. Other UNICEF-assisted programmes for young children combined interventions for children's health and nutrition, early education, environment and overall psychological and social well-being. The UNICEF Early Childhood Care for Survival, Growth and Development initiative was developed to improve a child's chances of reaching the first year of school healthy, resilient, well-nourished and ready to learn. UNICEF continued cooperation with various partners in campaigns to reach World Summit goals related to immunization targets for the year 2000, including the eradication of polio, reduction of measles deaths by 95 per cent from pre-immunization levels, elimination of neonatal tetanus, and reaching 90 per cent of children with vaccines for measles, polio, tuberculosis and diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus. It also supported efforts to combat vitamin A and iodine deficiency—a leading cause of visual disability, mental retardation and stunting. UNICEF supported malarial control programmes in more than 30 countries. In 1998, UNICEF joined with WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank to launch the Roll Back Malaria initiative, which aimed to strengthen health services and make available ef-

fective and affordable antimalarial drugs to communities in need.

Other UNICEF efforts directed towards improving child health focused on the promotion of safe motherhood, including the assessment of maternity hospitals and development of quality standards, training of health workers in prenatal and perinatal care, and the provision of iron folate supplements to pregnant women in at least 27 countries. A regional strategy for reducing maternal mortality was developed in West and Central Africa, the regions with the highest death rates. UNICEF continued support for "mother-friendly" movements and the training of community midwives in various countries, as well as for emergency obstetric care. Systems for reporting and auditing the causes of maternal deaths were developed in several countries in 1998, including Bangladesh, Georgia, Guyana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Tunisia. To ensure sanitary conditions during childbirth, UNICEF distributed clean birth kits during neonatal immunization campaigns in several countries during the year. Support for improved hygiene and sanitation continued to be a priority in countries with high rates of child mortality, with a focus on environmental conditions and education for behavioural change in poor communities and schools. UNICEF supported the construction of drinking water facilities in low-income countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nigeria and the Sudan.

In order to address the threat to millions of women and children affected by HIV/AIDS, UNICEF initiated a major reorientation of priorities in programme cooperation in 1998, particularly in eastern and southern Africa. In 13 countries, UNICEF engaged Governments in a dialogue on urgent measures to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, including expanded access to voluntary testing, counselling and treatment. Growing emphasis was also placed on programmes to improve adolescent health and development. UNICEF contributed to the 1998 world AIDS campaign, which focused on young people as agents of change; to the UN programme strategy for young people; and to the 1998 world No Tobacco Day, which highlighted children and youth. A number of UNICEF offices, including in Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Sri Lanka and Thailand, collaborated on an initiative funded by the Rockefeller Foundation (United States) on adolescent health and development. Programmes assisted by UNICEF at the country level ranged from activities to promote life skills in schools in eastern and southern Africa and the Mekong subregion of Asia and innovative teaching and learning approaches in Egypt and Thai-

land, to the promotion of youth-friendly health services in Ukraine and Zambia and recreational opportunities in the West Bank and Gaza. The promotion of adolescent health and development was a priority for UNICEF cooperation in most countries of Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States. Activities included the establishment of networks of youth clubs and information centres, the training of journalists and peer education on sexually transmitted diseases.

Basic education

In 1998, UNICEF continued efforts to provide children with access to education, giving special attention to girls, working children and young people in remote or marginalized communities. Emphasis was also placed on improving the quality of education and on creating child-friendly schools, through better-trained teachers, relevant curricula, lively and participatory learning, the involvement of parents and communities and a safe environment.

UNICEF programme cooperation included support for curriculum reform, often involving the inclusion of life skills, health education and gender-awareness materials; the training of school management committees as mobilizers and monitors of learning achievement; and the provision of textbooks, classroom furniture, teaching guides and training manuals, particularly in very low income countries. In several cases, UNICEF provided inputs to the design of national sector development programmes for basic education, including components focused on access for girls. It also supported innovative, participatory approaches to schooling based on community action. Examples of those approaches included the training of more than 600 school committees in the United Republic of Tanzania and more than 40,000 committee members of primary schools in Pakistan; the extension of mapping techniques to identify children not attending schools in Bangladesh; the enrolment in alternative education classes of some 140,000 children in remote and disadvantaged urban areas of Viet Nam; and the training of over 370 school directors and teachers as part of a pilot project for peace education in Burundi. During the year, the UNICEF Girls' Education Programme continued to promote the development of gender-sensitive classrooms in 52 countries through activities such as teacher training and the creation of new textbooks and curricula. In 10 countries in west and central Africa, approximately 3,400 schools and 800 literacy centres were supported under the African Girls' Education Initiative.

In Honduras, more than 500 non-formal education centres opened in 1998, reaching some 12,000 pre-schoolers. In Nepal, child development centres, managed and partly financed by communities, opened their doors to 17,000 children in 1998, bringing the total served to 30,000. In Turkey, mother-and-child education programmes had reached 14,000 children and families by the end of the year.

The UNICEF Education for Development programme continued to bring together educators and students from industrialized and developing countries to promote child rights, especially by encouraging young people to speak up about what was important to them. UNICEF also invited children and young adults to share ideas through its web site for young people, *Voices of Youth* (<http://www.unicef.org/voy>).

Protection from armed conflict, exploitation and abuse

In 1998, UNICEF provided humanitarian assistance for children in need of protection from armed conflict and other crises in 55 countries, almost four times the 15 countries that were assisted just four years earlier. It was estimated that more than 50 million women and children were in need of such assistance worldwide, whether due to civil strife in war-torn countries, or to natural disasters, which affected large areas of Central and South America, Bangladesh, China and the Horn of Africa in 1998 (see PART THREE, Chapter III).

UNICEF support for children affected by armed conflict focused on health and nutrition, psychosocial well-being and education. For example, UNICEF participated in negotiations for the periodic cessation of hostilities to deliver humanitarian assistance and immunize children in conflict zones in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and the Sudan. It played a lead role in mine-awareness and rehabilitation programmes in conflict and post-conflict situations in more than a dozen countries. UNICEF assisted district officials in Uganda to provide psychosocial support to children returning following their abduction (see PART TWO, Chapter II), and a national plan of action was formulated to address child trauma in Algeria. In acute situations, such as in Rwanda, emergency teacher-training packages developed by UNICEF and its partners were provided to ensure early restoration of education services, which was considered important to help heal past traumas and bring a sense of normalcy to children's lives. In addition, UNICEF collaborated with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed

Conflict in advocating a new peace and security agenda for children and women, an issue addressed by the Security Council (see PART TWO, Chapter II).

Increased efforts were undertaken during 1998 to combat child labour and child sexual exploitation. Together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF initiated studies on the incidence and causes of child labour in Kenya, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, and convened a regional assessment meeting on child domestic workers in the west and central Africa region. Learning centres for child workers were set up in urban areas in Bangladesh; national committees for the eradication of child labour were established in several countries in the Americas; and projects were developed in several Asian countries to combat child labour.

National action plans against the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children were developed by UNICEF and its partners in several countries, including Cambodia, Mongolia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Studies of child trafficking were completed in 10 countries in west and central Africa and were initiated in Poland. In countries of Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States region, emphasis was placed on improving the conditions for children in public care facilities. A regional convention on the trafficking of children and women was drafted by the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, with the collaboration of UNICEF and other UN agencies.

Poverty reduction

UNICEF continued in 1998 to work with partners worldwide to help break the cycle of poverty, particularly in the poorest countries, which experienced the highest rates of child deaths and the lowest rates of access to basic services such as primary education and safe drinking water. UNICEF efforts aimed at increasing aid to developing countries; ensuring universal access to basic social services; helping poor countries obtain debt relief; promoting decentralization and greater accountability of Governments; enhancing the ability of the poor to help themselves; and strengthening the information base for statistical evaluations. For example, UNICEF continued to serve as the lead agency in promoting the 20/20 Initiative, which encouraged the allocation of 20 per cent of developing countries' budgets and an equal percentage of aid from donor countries to basic social services, including health care, primary education and low-cost safe water and sanitation. At a global meeting to assess progress on the Initiative (Hanoi, Viet Nam, October),

UNICEF joined with other partners to find ways to improve the quality and impact of basic social services and to use resources more efficiently.

In a move away from the project approach, UNICEF, the World Bank and other partners worked with Governments to develop and implement one overall programme in sectors such as health and education. That Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) aimed to provide greater access to quality basic social services, among other benefits. The approach would improve efficiency and impact of programmes by coordinating efforts in establishing policies and priorities, implementing an agreed-upon programme of work, and monitoring and evaluating results. UNICEF participated in SWAPs in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Organizational and administrative matters

UNICEF finances

In 1998, UNICEF income amounted to \$968 million, which was \$26 million (2.8 per cent) higher than the \$942 million estimated in the 1998 financial medium-term plan and \$66 million more than 1997 income. The main sources of income were contributions from Governments and intergovernmental organizations (62 per cent (\$603 million) of total income); and non-governmental and private sector groups and individuals (33 per cent (\$319 million)). Another 5 per cent (\$44 million) came from UN agencies and other sources.

Budget appropriations

The Executive Board, in January [dec. 1998/2], approved a biennial support budget totalling \$527.5 million for programme support and management and administration of UNICEF for 1998-1999, as recommended by the Executive Director [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.1 & Corr.1] and reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.2]. Income estimates of \$48.5 million would be used to offset the gross appropriations, resulting in estimated net appropriations of \$478.9 million. The Board requested the Executive Director to ensure that the current ratio of management and administration costs and programme support costs to programme resources would be maintained, and to report in 1999 on progress made to implement the 1998-1999 biennial support budget.

Also in January [dec. 1998/3], the Board approved a general resources programme budget of \$17.6 million (other than the Emergency Programme Fund) for 1998-1999. In addition, it ap-

proved a supplementary-funded programme budget of \$161.2 million for the 1998-1999 biennium, subject to availability of specific-purpose contributions [dec. 1998/41].

In September [dec. 1998/15], the Board approved the Executive Director's recommendations for funding programmes in 28 countries [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.4], amounting to the following respective amounts for general resources and supplementary funding for each region: Africa, \$88.6 million and \$189.3 million; Americas, \$4.6 million and \$16.5 million; Asia, \$197.7 million and \$265.5 million; Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States, \$4.2 million and \$30.7 million; and the Middle East and North Africa, \$14.6 million and \$71.5 million.

On 11 September [dec. 1998/22], the Board approved the financial medium-term plan [E/ICEF/1998/13] as a framework of projections for 1998-2001, including the preparation of up to \$254 million in programme expenditures from general resources to be submitted to the Board in 1999. The amount was subject to the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure made in the plan continued to be valid. The Executive Director was asked to report on the funding targets necessary to achieve the goals of the medium-term plan in the context of the resource mobilization strategy to be adopted by the Board in January 1999.

Audits

In May, the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) issued a report on UNICEF's internal audit activities in 1997 [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.7], the first such annual report prepared on the basis of a 1997 Executive Board recommendation. The report outlined the major findings and conclusions of internal audit activities, observing that improved funding of such activities had enabled OIA to increase the number of audits undertaken and strengthen further the targeting of efforts to priority risk areas. The Executive Board, on 10 September [dec. 1998/17], took note of the report.

In August [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.9], UNICEF issued a report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and ACABQ on the steps taken or to be taken in response to the Board's recommendations on the UNICEF accounts for the 1996-1997 biennium. It also presented the status of implementation of recommendations on the UNICEF accounts for the 1994-1995 biennium.

Harmonization of budgets

In a 30 January decision on the 1998-1999 biennial support budget [dec. 1998/2], the UNICEF Executive Board welcomed the new format for the presentation of the budget in line with its 1997

decisions on integrated budgeting and on harmonization of budget presentations with UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) [YUN 1997, p. 1220]. The Executive Director was asked to review with the UNDP Administrator and the UNFPA Executive Director the harmonized presentation [ibid., p. 881], with a view to improving it, particularly its clarity, for the next biennium, taking into account comments made by ACABQ [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.2].

Recovery policy

In response to a 1994 Executive Board request [YUN 1994, p. 1210], the Executive Director, in May [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.6], reviewed the application of the UNICEF interim recovery policy, a core part of the financial procedures related to supplementary-funded projects. Recovery charges were to cover the costs for programme support and management and administration, which UNICEF had to bear to implement supplementary-funded programmes. In June [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.12], ACABQ reviewed the report.

The Executive Board, on 10 September [dec. 1998/21], decided that, as implemented in the 1998-1999 biennial support budget [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.1], there would be one gross support budget to cover the costs of programme support and management and administration for general resources and supplementary funding. The Board also decided, as an interim measure to cover the support costs to be incurred in the 1999 support budget, that the recovery rate would be increased from 3 to 5 per cent. The interest earned on the supplementary funding cash balances would continue to be an item in the miscellaneous income in general resources and would be used to cover the shortfall in the recovery. The UNICEF secretariat was instructed to undertake a full analysis of recovery policy, including the method of calculating and applying charges, as recommended by ACABQ, and to reflect that in the preparation of the 2000-2001 support budget.

Resource mobilization strategy

During 1998, the UNICEF secretariat continued its work on a resource mobilization strategy, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 50/227 [YUN 1996, p. 1249] and the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1997/59 [YUN 1997, p. 846]. The elements of a draft resource mobilization strategy were addressed throughout the year in a series of reports prepared by UNICEF and discussed by the Executive Board at its regular, annual and inter-sessional meetings. In January [E/1998/35/Rev.I], the UNICEF Executive Director gave an oral report on the resource mobilization strategy, describing recent declining trends in of-

ficial development assistance, as well as similar trends for UNICEF general resources and supplementary funds income; she expressed concern about the negative impact that would have on UNICEF's ability to carry out its mission and mandate. She reported that she had convened a special team to review UNICEF's resource mobilization efforts, define priorities for attention and make recommendations with respect to reversing those trends.

The Board, on 30 January [dec. 1998/6], welcomed steps taken by the Executive Director to formulate a resource mobilization strategy and decided to hold an inter-sessional meeting in the first quarter of 1998 to discuss such a strategy. The Executive Director was asked to produce a report on the work of the secretariat and the Board on the issue, as well as a draft resource mobilization strategy for discussion at the Board's second 1998 regular session, with a view to adopting the strategy at the first regular session in 1999.

In February, UNICEF issued a conference room paper on a resource mobilization strategy for discussion at the inter-sessional meeting of the Board. The paper consisted of three parts: a summary of comments by delegations in January; the text of the Executive Director's oral report at that session; and highlights of the initial findings of the Resource Mobilization Team appointed by the Executive Board. The Team stressed that the ongoing programmatic dialogue with donors was crucial and concerned not only Governments, but also National Committees. Various strategies were discussed, ranging from a renewed emphasis on greeting cards, to collaboration with the World Bank and regional development banks, to areas of thematic fundraising with Governments (child labour, girls' education, landmine awareness and malaria reduction, among other things).

In March, UNICEF submitted a report on the work of its Board and secretariat on a resource mobilization strategy [E/ICEF/1998/11], which was transmitted to the Economic and Social Council, together with a summary of the Board's discussion at the annual session in June [E/1998/70]. The report discussed action the secretariat needed to take to create conditions for effective fundraising, issues for the Board's consideration and new means to tap non-governmental wealth. The Executive Board, on 2 June [dec. 1998/8], took note of the report, as did the Council by **decision** 1998/286 of 31 July.

As requested by the Board, UNICEF presented in July a draft resource mobilization strategy [E/ICEF/1998/14], which aimed to assure increased core resources for UNICEF; obtain greater pre-

dictability of contributions to core resources; and find a means of increasing burden-sharing among donors to UNICEF core resources. In addition, the draft strategy addressed ways to mobilize and improve the management of contributions to regular and supplementary funds. On 9 September [dec. 1998/14], the Board took note of the draft strategy and asked that the comments made during Board discussions of the draft be taken into account by the secretariat in preparing the final resource mobilization strategy to be presented in January 1999.

Private Sector Division

Effective 1 February, UNICEF's Greeting Card and related Operations (GCO) became the Private Sector Division (PSD). UNICEF submitted to the Executive Board a financial report on the renamed division for the year ending 31 December 1998 [E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.13]. The total contribution of PSD activities to UNICEF general resources for the year was \$180.1 million, compared to \$93.5 million for the eight-month period that was covered in the 1997 financial report, due to a change in the PSD fiscal year. The contribution consisted of \$56.5 million net operating income from the sale of UNICEF greeting cards and other products; \$131.4 million net operating income from private sector fund-raising activities and an offset of \$7.8 million for other charges and adjustments. Gross proceeds from the sale of UNICEF greeting cards and other products amounted to \$137.9 million, compared to \$147.1 million in 1997. Although the same number of cards were sold in 1998 as in 1997 (147 million), the shortfall was due primarily to the negative impact of the continued strength of the United States dollar.

The net operating income from private sector fund-raising activities related to general resources totalled \$131.4 million in 1998, compared to \$37.5 million in 1997, an increase of \$94 million. That was partially due to the longer accounting period in 1998. In addition, \$92.5 million was raised from private sector fund-raising activities, earmarked by partners for allocation to supplementary-funded projects, compared to \$64.2 million in 1997.

The Executive Board, in January [dec. 1998/5], approved for the fiscal year 1 January to 31 December 1998 budgeted GCO expenditures of \$93.6 million, as presented in 1997 in the proposed budget [YUN 1997, p. 1221]. It authorized the Executive Director to incur expenditures as outlined in the proposed budget and to increase expenditures up to a maximum proposed in the report, should there be an apparent net proceeds increase from product sales and/or private sector fund-raising, and, accordingly, to reduce expend-

itures should the net proceeds decrease. The Executive Director was also authorized to redeploy resources between the various budget lines up to 10 per cent of the amounts approved, and to spend additional funds between sessions of the Board, when necessary due to currency fluctuations, to implement the 1998 work plan. GCO was requested in future budget submissions to provide an analysis of the profitability of its two revenue-generating activities—product sales and private sector fund-raising—and a comparison of approved budget to actual expenditures for the second previous fiscal year. The Board noted that GCO net proceeds for 1998 were budgeted at \$273.5 million for general resources. It approved the proposed changes in posts contained in the budget (a net decrease of 17 posts) and renewed the Market Development Programme with \$2.8 million for 1998 and the Fund-raising Development Programme with \$7.8 million for 1998. It also renewed the Central and Eastern European National Committees Development Programme, with a budget of \$0.1 million for 1998. The Executive Director was authorized to incur expenditures in 1998 related to the cost of goods delivered for 1999 up to \$46.2 million. In addition, the Board approved the GCO 1999-2002 medium-term plan contained in the budget report.

In September [dec. 1998/18], the Board took note of the GCO financial reports and statements for the year ended 30 April 1997 [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.10] and for the eight-month period ended 31 December 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1221].

Joint committee

The first session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH) (Geneva, 3-4 July) [E/ICEF/1998/15] reviewed its terms of reference, as well as decisions and resolutions of the three organizations relevant to improving the health status of women and children. The role of CCH was to facilitate the coordination of health policies and programmes of the three organizations and to review the overall needs for strategic, operational and technical coordination regarding maternal, child, adolescent and women's health, as well as to promote consistency in implementation of activities and to review topical reports presented by the three organizations. The Committee also made recommendations on the main public health issues relevant to its mandate: safe motherhood, vitamin A deficiency, and adolescent health and development.

The UNICEF Executive Board, on 10 September [dec. 1998/20], took note of the recommendations contained in the Committee's report on its first meeting and endorsed the terms of reference for CCH as described therein.

Management excellence

The UNICEF secretariat, in response to a 1997 Executive Board request [YUN 1997, p. 1222], presented an assessment of the management excellence programme (MEP) from its inception in mid-1995 to early 1998 [E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.51]. It reviewed the programme's interventions in country, regional and headquarters offices, emphasizing their impact on UNICEF programmes. The report noted that MEP had led to significant improvements in the structure, systems, processes and culture of UNICEF. Those changes had enhanced UNICEF's capacity to manage its resources, to carry out its programme work and to be accountable for results.

The Executive Board, on 5 June [dec. 1998/11], encouraged the Executive Director to continue strengthening the implementation of management excellence throughout UNICEF and at all levels. It endorsed her recommendation that management excellence be considered "mainstreamed" and that subsequent reporting on performance be included under the relevant agenda items, with attention given to identifying aspects of accountability, particularly elements of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, in the delivery of agreed programme objectives.

Communication and information

As requested by the Executive Board in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1223], the UNICEF secretariat, in March [E/ICEF/1998/10], prepared a more elaborate communication policy, including a definition of the role of the communication function at global, regional and country levels, the identification of priority areas and a strategy for implementation. The report examined the role of communication in the context of the UNICEF mandate and mission, proposed strategies and discussed the communication functions, activities and structures within UNICEF that supported the policy. Among the communication channels and processes available to UNICEF were electronic media, print, interpersonal communication and communication through participatory learning. UNICEF carried out audience research, monitoring and evaluation activities, but the development of valid and useful indicators remained a challenge as the scope of UNICEF programmes became wider at the country, regional and global levels. With regard to accountability, an approach that was both comprehensive and specifically targeted was required, with all efforts coordinated so that the UNICEF message was clear and compelling, with responsibility placed at the level closest to the target audiences. An annex to the report provided an overview of UNICEF publications.

The Executive Board, on 2 June [dec. 1998/9], endorsed the report on the communication strategy as a broad policy framework for UNICEF activities in that area, including continuing efforts to improve research and evaluation capacities and the communication functions for country, regional and headquarters levels. The Board supported the approach outlined in the policy, which defined UNICEF communication functions as including information, advocacy, behavioural development and change, and social and resource mobilization. The Executive Director was encouraged to intensify UNICEF efforts to strengthen collaboration and partnerships with relevant sectors of the communication field.

Annual reports

In January [dec. 1998/1], the Executive Board took note of the Executive Director's annual report to the Economic and Social Council [E/ICEF/1998/4 (Part I)] and asked the Executive Director to include and identify in future reports issues that would require particular consideration by the Board and the Council. The Board transmitted the report to the Council, together with comments made during discussions [E/1998/16],

The Council, by **decision** 1998/286 of 31 July, took note of the report.

Youth

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

United Nations efforts to promote policies and programmes involving youth continued to focus on implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 50/81 [YUN 1995, p. 1211]. The Programme of Action addressed problems faced by youth worldwide and outlined meaningful ways to enhance youth participation in national and international policy- and decision-making. In particular, it outlined action guidelines in 10 priority areas: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making. By June 1998, 144 countries had formulated a national youth policy; however, only 73 of those countries had implemented a national programme of action.

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

The first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 8 to 12 August [WCMRY/1998/28] with the objective of strengthening national capacities for implementing the World Programme of Action. Convened by Portugal, in cooperation with the United Nations, the Conference drew representatives from over 145 countries, including more than 100 government youth ministers and official youth delegates. Discussions focused on three major areas of concern: national youth policies of a cross-sectoral nature; relevance of the themes of International Youth Year (1985) [YUN 1985, p. 978]: participation, development and peace; and social development and major priority issues for action, including education, employment, health, drug abuse and others.

At its conclusion, the Conference adopted the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, by which Governments committed themselves to implementing numerous measures related to national youth policy, participation, development, peace, education, employment, health and drug abuse. The Declaration built on the guidelines of the World Programme of Action and outlined policy commitments of national Governments. In the 88-paragraph document, Governments recognized that the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and actions in favour of young people were the responsibility of each country, and committed themselves to placing those issues at the top of the political agenda and according that process an appropriate level of resources. States pledged to enhance youth participation in all areas of society, including government decision- and policy-making; to ensure the right to development of all young people; and to strengthen the role of youth and youth organizations in peace-building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The Declaration also outlined commitments aimed at guaranteeing access to education and equal employment opportunities, promoting health development and preventing drug abuse. In addition, Governments agreed to introduce time-bound goals and indicators to assess progress made by countries in implementing the Declaration and to foster the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, with the active participation of youth.

Among other resolutions, the Conference proposed the proclamation of 12 August as International Youth Day and addressed the role of youth in protecting the ocean environment, taking into account that the General Assembly, by resolution 49/131 [YUN 1994, p. 951], had designated 1998 as

the International Year of the Ocean. The Conference recommended that initiatives to raise the level of education on and awareness of ocean issues should be encouraged and supported among young people so that they could participate effectively in preserving and enhancing the ocean as the heritage of humanity.

During the Conference, the participants considered, among other things, the reports of regional youth meetings convened during 1997 and 1998 as part of the two-year Conference preparatory process [WCMRY/1998/15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25]. The Secretariat submitted a report on national youth policies to implement the World Programme of Action [WCMRY/1998/6] and a review and appraisal of implementation of the objectives of International Youth Year (1985) [WCMRY/1998/7]. Contributions on youth-related issues were also submitted by several UN agencies and organizations, including reports on youth and education, youth and employment, youth and health, and youth and drug abuse.

World Youth Forum

Prior to the World Conference, some 500 delegates representing youth organizations in 150 countries met with UN and other intergovernmental officials for the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Braga, Portugal, 2-7 August) [E/CN.S/1999/12]. As with previous sessions held in 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 696] and 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 1096], the Forum sought to enhance youth involvement in the decision-making processes of the UN system, including the development of joint policies, programmes and projects, and to improve communication and strengthen cooperation between the UN system and youth organizations around the world. The Forum also aimed to promote implementation and monitoring of the 1995 Programme of Action for Youth, as well as other policies and programmes related to youth. With the theme "Youth participation for human development", the Forum was convened by the United Nations, in partnership with the Portuguese National Youth Council.

At its conclusion, the Forum adopted the Braga Youth Action Plan, a joint commitment of participants to goals and actions aimed at fostering youth participation for human development. The Plan's 30 recommendations focused on the advancement of youth policy, participation and rights, at the global and national levels. It was presented to national ministers attending the World Conference in Lisbon.

In September [A/53/378], both the Lisbon Declaration and the Braga Action Plan were transmitted to the Secretary-General for submission

to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in 1999. The recommendations contained in the two documents were expected to form the basis for the discussion on youth policies and programmes at the February 1999 meeting of the Commission for Social Development.

Ageing persons

International Year of Older Persons (1999)

In a Proclamation on Ageing contained in its resolution 47/5 of 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 889], the General Assembly designated 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons. The overall objective of the Year was the promotion of the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 46/91 [YUN 1991, p. 698], which provided guidance in the areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity. On 1 October 1998, the International Year was officially launched by the Secretary-General during a special ceremony at Headquarters.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 52/80 [YUN 1997, p. 1227], the Secretary-General, in August [A/53/294], summarized preparations for observance of the International Year, including events planned by States, UN bodies and NGOs at the national and international levels. The report reviewed the core concepts behind the Year and explored issues to help develop further the concept of the Year's theme, "A society for all ages".

Worldwide events planned for the Year were highlighted according to an operational framework encompassing four dimensions: raising awareness; looking beyond 1999; reaching out to non-traditional actors; and networking, research and information exchange. Observance of the Year was to be guided by concepts and strategies based on recommendations contained in the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted in 1982 at the World Assembly on Ageing [YUN 1982, p. 1182]. Four main facets for debate and action during the Year were the situation of older persons, lifelong individual development, multigenerational relationships and the interplay of population ageing and development.

At the time of the report, 78 Governments had established focal points and/or national committees to prepare activities, and focal points had been established in a number of UN agencies and bodies. Within the UN system, the gender di-

mensions of a society for all ages were being mainstreamed in all agencies.

Regarding the Year's theme, the Secretary-General concluded that moving to a society for all ages would require policies that simultaneously strengthened individual lifelong development into late life, focused on self-help and independence, and fostered enabling environments of families, neighbourhoods, communities of interest and broad societal institutions based on principles of reciprocity and interdependence. The basic idea behind a society for all ages was that all age groups were equally worthy and that no age group should be discriminated against or especially favoured by society.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

The Economic and Social Council, by **decision** 1998/225 of 28 July, decided that the ad hoc informal open-ended support group to assist the Commission for Social Development in preparations for the International Year—in addition to its activities of promoting awareness and information exchange on preparations for the Year between States, the UN system and NGOs—would serve as an informal consultative forum for discussing national and international proposals and initiatives to help lay the groundwork for the discussion of the Year at the Commission's thirty-seventh (1999) session. The Council changed the support group's name to the Consultative Group for the International Year of Older Persons, keeping its informal and open-ended nature. The Council adopted the decision on the Commission's recommendation [E/1998/26].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 85], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/53/615], adopted **resolution** 53/109 without vote [agenda item 100].

International Year of Older Persons, 1999

The General Assembly,

Recalling its Proclamation on Ageing, in which, *inter alia*, it designated the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling also the conceptual and operational frameworks for the Year,

Convinced of the need to implement the International Plan of Action on Ageing and to promote adherence to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons,

Mindful of its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it expressed its conviction that older persons must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

Mindful also of the relevant provisions of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Aware that, on the eve of the twenty-first century, the ageing of individuals and populations, unprecedented in the history of humankind, is having far-reaching effects on the way societies organize themselves, on relationships between the generations in families and communities, on the entire course of individual lives and on the terms, images and roles of older persons in their societies,

Mindful of the necessity to include a gender dimension in the preparations for the Year,

Wishing to promote investments to further lifelong human development and to preserve and support age-integrated social institutions,

Convinced that moving towards a society for all ages will require policies that strengthen individual lifelong development into late life, focusing on self-help and independence, and, relatedly and simultaneously, strengthen enabling environments of families, neighbourhoods, communities of interest and broad societal institutions based on principles of reciprocity and interdependence,

1. Notes with satisfaction the successful launching of the International Year of Older Persons, with the theme "A society for all ages", on 1 October 1998 around the world and at United Nations Headquarters by the Secretary-General;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the valuable report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the International Year of Older Persons, including its exploration of a society for all ages, presented for further debate by national committees and others;

3. Encourages all States, the United Nations system and all other actors, in reaching out for a future society for all ages, to take advantage of the Year so as to increase awareness of the challenge of the demographic ageing of societies, the individual and social needs of older persons, the contributions of older persons to society and the need for a change in attitudes towards older persons;

4. Welcomes the activities relating to older persons undertaken by States, United Nations organizations and bodies and non-governmental organizations devoted to raising awareness, networking, reaching out and looking ahead beyond 1999;

5. Encourages States that have not yet done so to establish a national focal point or broad-based committee for the Year, and re-emphasizes that activities for the Year should be initiated primarily at the national level;

6. Welcomes the redesignation of the intergovernmental support group as the Consultative Group for the International Year of Older Persons, and invites it to continue its contributions to the observance of the Year;

7. Recommends that the Commission for Social Development should mainstream the issue of older persons into the work of the Commission and the preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly to review the World Summit for Social Development in the year 2000;

8. Calls upon States, United Nations agencies and bodies and institutions of civil society, including the research community, to avoid age and gender bias in their treatment of older women so as to ensure that all older women have equal access to the private sector and to social services and to ensure their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. Encourages States to embody in appropriate legislation the rights of older persons to equal access to and the use of social services, including care-giving systems and support services, without any discrimination;

10. Urges that the issue of older persons be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations and national socio-economic programmes and plans, as appropriate;

11. Invites national committees to consider the desirability of drawing up:

(a) A set of principles for a society for all ages;

(b) Practical strategies for a society for all ages aimed at mainstreaming ageing into programmes and policies, while ensuring that the immediate developmental, income-security and health-care needs of older persons are met;

12. Invites national and international development entities, foundations and enterprises to explore ways of improving the access of older persons to credit, training and appropriate technologies for income generation and their participation in family, community and small businesses;

13. Invites Member States, in the five-year review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, to examine the implications of individual and population ageing;

14. Invites the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to continue its information campaign, intensifying, as feasible, its activities in January 1999 in support of countries that were unable to launch observances of the Year on 1 October 1998;

15. Recommends that research agendas for the next decades address the socio-economic adjustments required to move towards a society for all ages, focusing essentially on the lifelong and society-wide immediate and long-term implications of individual and population ageing within varied national contexts, and requests the United Nations programme on ageing to give priority attention to the research needs of developing countries;

16. Invites the United Nations Volunteers and organizations of older persons to evaluate the contributions of senior volunteers in creating societies for all ages, in keeping with the traditions, resources and aspirations of each country;

17. Notes with appreciation the valuable role of the media in the preparations for the Year and in raising awareness of it, and encourages the media, consistent with freedom of expression, to present non-stereotyped images of older persons;

18. Invites those institutions of civil society that are playing a vital role at the local, national and interna-

tional levels in promoting the Year to focus their observance in 1999 of the International Day of Older Persons, 1 October, on the theme "Late-life potentials and contributions in a new age";

19. Requests States to participate, at an appropriate global policy-making level, in the four plenary meetings which, in resolution 52/80 of 12 December 1997, it decided to devote at its fifty-fourth session to the Year and its follow-up;

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

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in response to a 1997 Commission for Social Development request [YUN 1997, p. 1229], submitted a report on options for the future review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing [E/CN.5/1998/3], adopted in 1982 at the World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed the same year by the General Assembly in resolution 37/51 [YUN 1982, p. 1186]. In its 62 recommendations, the Plan suggested action in seven areas of concern to ageing individuals—health and nutrition, protection of elderly consumers, housing and environment, family, social welfare, income security and employment, and education. The Plan of Action recommended that international action should focus on data collection and analysis, training and education and research.

The Commission for Social Development, which was responsible for monitoring progress in the Plan's implementation every four years, had sent a questionnaire to States to obtain information for the review, but the participation rate was low. Nevertheless, it was determined that the Plan of Action had been incorporated into national plans by 52 of the 55 countries that reported having plans.

Among options for future monitoring suggested by the Secretary-General, the most radical was the revision of the Plan of Action to adjust it to recent socio-economic and political realities, which would imply embarking on extensive inter-

governmental negotiations. A more manageable and immediate approach would be to maintain the Plan's primary focus on the situation of older persons but accompany it by strategies for individual development and multigenerational relationships, and for examining the relationship between development and the ageing of populations. The Secretary-General proposed that the review and appraisal process be carried out every five years beginning in 2005, to be complemented by a report on the world ageing situation in the following year. The process should focus on priority areas to be identified by the Commission. Initiatives to support the review process should include a database of policies and programmes on the Internet, household surveys in selected areas and an ageing-related development index. The report also proposed that the review process should be maintained but adjusted incrementally to make the process more relevant to emerging socio-economic realities.

Commission action. The Commission for Social Development, having considered the Secretary-General's report, in February [E/1998/26 (dec. 36/101)], stressed the need for a more focused and improved method to monitor the implementation of the Plan of Action, as well as the need to introduce a gender perspective into the review and appraisal process. The Commission asked the Secretary-General to explore ways of using the opportunities provided by the reorganization of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to review the implementation. He was also asked to report on further possible options for improving the reliability, validity and practicability of the current review and appraisal exercise, focusing on priorities identified in preparations for the International Year of Older Persons. DESA was requested to cooperate with UNDP in exploring the feasibility of an ageing-related development index to be included in the Human Development Report. In addition, DESA was invited to draw up proposals on developing an Internet database on public policies and programmes on ageing.