

## Chapter XIII

## Health, food and nutrition

In 2001, the United Nations continued to promote human health, coordinate food aid and food security and support research in nutrition.

At the end of the year, some 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, about one third of whom were between the ages of 15 and 24. During the year, approximately 5 million people became infected, 800,000 of them children. The General Assembly's special session on HIV/AIDS (New York, 25-27 June) was seen as the first step in the realization of the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000, in which the world's leaders resolved to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The Declaration of Commitment, adopted at the special session, represented a watershed in the history of the epidemic, establishing, for the first time, time-bound targets on prevention, care, support and treatment, impact alleviation, and children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

In September, the Assembly proclaimed the period 2001-2010 the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. In July, the Economic and Social Council called for support to the Organization of African Unity plan of action to achieve the goal of the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign initiative. Regarding tobacco control, work progressed on the drafting of a framework convention on tobacco control and related protocols.

The World Food Programme—a joint undertaking of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—provided food aid to 77 million people, supplying a record level of 4.2 million tons of such aid. FAO continued to implement the plan of action adopted at the 1996 World Food Summit and the FAO Council approved a proposal to convene, in June 2002, a review of the 1996 Summit.

## Health

### AIDS prevention and control

In the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], adopted by the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, the world's leaders com-

mitted themselves to halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015; providing special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS; and helping Africa build its capacity to tackle the spread of the pandemic and other infectious diseases. The decision by the General Assembly to convene a special session to review the problem as a matter of urgency followed quickly after the Millennium Summit, and was seen as the first step in the realization of the commitments expressed in the Declaration. The special session, which called for an expanded global response, for the first time ever established time-bound targets relating to prevention, care, support and treatment, impact alleviation, and children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

### General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS

The twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly to review and address the HIV/AIDS problem in all its aspects and to secure a global commitment to enhance coordination and intensify efforts to combat the epidemic was held in New York from 25 to 27 June, as decided by the Assembly in resolutions 54/283 [YUN 2000, p. 1166] and 55/13 [ibid., p. 1167]. On 27 June, the Assembly adopted a Declaration of Commitment entitled "Global Crisis—Global Action" (see p. 1126), in which Member States committed themselves to addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis at all levels, through strong leadership and effective responses in such areas as: prevention; care, support and treatment; human rights; reducing vulnerability; a supportive environment for orphaned children; alleviating the epidemic's social and economic impact; research and development; developing strategies in conflict and disaster-affected regions; and additional and sustained resources. On the same date, the Assembly approved the report of the Credentials Committee (**resolution S-26/1**).

In other action, the Assembly, on 25 June, appointed the Credentials Committee members (**decision S-26/11**), elected its President (**decision S-26/12**), Vice-Presidents (**decision S-26/13**) and Chairpersons of the Main Committees (**decision S-26/14**), and appointed the facilitators (**decision S-26/15**) and chairpersons of the round