

progress and status of ongoing and new institutional development initiatives; approved the text of the host country agreement and bilateral agreement; adopted the statute of the consolidated UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability; adopted the UNU strategic plan 2015–2019; considered and approved a revised biennial programme and budget for 2014–2015; and reviewed the progress made towards the establishment of a UNU Institute on Human Resources and Economic Development in Dakar, Senegal.

In 2014, the UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) was established at the UNU Centre in Tokyo as part of a broader effort by the UNU Rector to respond to the Secretary-General's request to enhance UNU policy relevance in the fields of peace and security as well as in global development. The core mission of UNU-CPR was to generate policy research that spoke to major debates in the wider UN community as well as the Secretary-General's priorities. Another highlight was the formation of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) which was formed through the merger of the University's two Japan-based research and training institutes: the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace. The proposal to consolidate the two institutes was endorsed by the UNU Council in April 2013, and the new UNU-IAS was formally inaugurated on 1 January 2014.

In 2014, the research work of UNU focused on five interdependent thematic clusters: development governance, global change and sustainable development, peace, security and human rights, population and health and science, technology and society. UNU implemented 178 research projects (60 new, 70 ongoing, 48 completed during the year), of which 114 (64 per cent) were primarily focused on or in developing countries. UNU researchers published 34 books and 81 chapters in edited volumes, 233 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 44 other articles, and 13 special journal issues. UNU also published 304 working and discussion papers, 34 policy briefs, and 51 research/technology briefs, as well as numerous website articles, videos/podcasts, proceedings and conference papers.

During the year, UNU received \$46.9 million in contributions from 22 Governments and some 112 additional sources.

### **United Nations System Staff College**

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/214 [YUN 2005, p. 1527] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/14 [YUN 2013, p. 1084], the Secretary-General transmitted a report to the Economic and Social Council covering the activities of the United Nations System Staff College over the 2013–2014 biennium, focusing on the College's outreach efforts, impact of services, substantive course portfolio and

strategic orientation. He reported that the Staff College made notable progress in terms of increasing the number of UN staff participating in its programmes, the level and diversification of its partnerships, the thematic focus of its courses and the quality of its services. In 2013, the College reached more than 9,000 beneficiaries with its courses, workshops and knowledge products, while in 2014 the overall number of beneficiaries exceeded 16,000. The combined figure represented an increase of 23 per cent over the 2011–2012 biennium, while the 2014 figure represented a historical peak. The year 2014 also saw an important increase over 2013 in terms of the value and number of partnership contracts signed with UN system entities, which amounted to 56 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively.

The Secretary-General also detailed the Staff College's key institutional achievements in terms of strengthening its efficiency, effectiveness, accountability in delivering results, and collaboration and partnerships. Regarding the financial situation of the College, total income in 2014 amounted to \$7.39 million. The College maintained its previous trend of self-generating a major portion of its income. It self-generated 65 per cent of its income in 2013 and 74 per cent in 2014 despite the decreasing resources of United Nations entities following the 2008 global financial crisis and its direct impact on funding available for learning and training activities.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States and UN system entities provide full support to the Staff College in its efforts to deliver appropriately contemporary and forward-looking range of capacity-building measures for UN staff. In particular, Member States were encouraged to work with the College to ensure shared ownership of the change process and to support the College in consolidating a resource base commensurate with interlinked tasks.

## **Education for All**

### **Literacy for life**

In July [A/69/183], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/132 [YUN 2013, p. 1085], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly a report from the UNESCO Director-General on the implementation of that resolution and the process of elaborating a literacy vision and agenda for the period subsequent to the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) [YUN 2001, p. 1052].

The Director-General reported that there had been steady progress in the global literacy landscape. Global literacy rates for persons aged between 15 and 24 years had increased from 83 per cent in 1990 to 87 per cent in 2000 and 89 per cent in 2012. The absolute number of non-literate adults had fallen from 884 million in 1990 to 787 million in 2000