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This volume of the YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS continues the tradition of providing the most comprehensive coverage of the activities of the United Nations. It is an indispensable reference tool for the research community, diplomats, government officials and the general public seeking readily available information on the UN system and its related organizations.

Efforts by the Department of Public Information to achieve a more timely publication have resulted in having to rely on provisional documentation and other materials to prepare the relevant articles. Largely, Economic and Social Council resolutions and some other texts in the present volume are provisional.

Structure and scope of articles

The Yearbook is subject-oriented and divided into six parts covering political and security questions; human rights issues; economic and social questions; legal questions; institutional, administrative and budgetary questions; and intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations. Chapters and topical headings present summaries of pertinent UN activities, including those of intergovernmental and expert bodies, major reports, Secretariat activities and, in selected cases, the views of States in written communications.

Activities of United Nations bodies. All resolutions, decisions and other major activities of the principal organs and, on a selective basis, those of subsidiary bodies are either reproduced or summarized in the appropriate chapter. The texts of all resolutions and decisions of substantive nature adopted in 2004 by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are reproduced or summarized under the relevant topic. These texts are preceded by procedural details giving date of adoption, meeting number and vote totals (in favour–against–abstaining) if any; and an indication of their approval by a sessional or subsidiary body prior to final adoption. The texts are followed by details of any recorded or roll-call vote on the resolution/decision as a whole.

Major reports. Most reports of the Secretary-General, in 2004, along with selected reports from other UN sources, such as seminars and working groups, are summarized briefly.

Secretariat activities. The operational activities of the United Nations for development and humanitarian assistance are described under the relevant topics. For major activities financed outside the UN regular budget, selected information is given on contributions and expenditures.

Views of States. Written communications sent to the United Nations by Member States and circulated as documents of the principal organs have been summarized in selected cases, under the relevant topics. Substantive actions by the Security Council have been analysed and brief reviews of the Council’s deliberations given, particularly in cases where an issue was taken up but no resolution was adopted.

Related organizations. The Yearbook also briefly describes the 2004 activities of the specialized agencies and other related organizations of the UN system.

Multilateral treaties. Information on signatories and parties to multilateral treaties and conventions is taken from Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2004 (ST/LEG/SER.E/24 (vols. I & II)), Sales No. E.05.V.3.

Terminology

Formal titles of bodies, organizational units, conventions, declarations and officials are given in full on first mention in an article or sequence of articles. They are also used in resolution/decision texts, and in the SUBJECT INDEX under the key word of the title. Short titles may be used in subsequent references.

How to find information in the Yearbook

The user may locate information on the United Nations activities contained in this volume by the use of the Table of Contents, the Subject Index, the Index of Resolutions and Decisions and the Index of Security Council presidential statements. The volume also has five appendices: Appendix I comprises a roster of Member States; Appendix II reproduces the Charter of the United Nations, including the Statute of the International Court of Justice; Appendix III gives the structure of the principal organs of the United Nations; Appendix IV provides the agenda for each session of the principal organs in 2004; and Appendix V gives the addresses of the United Nations information centres and services worldwide.

For more information on the United Nations and its activities, visit our Internet site at:

www.un.org
ABBREVIATIONS COMMONLY USED IN THE YEARBOOK

ACABQ Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
AU African Union
CEB United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
CIS Commonwealth of Independent States
CPC Committee for Programme and Coordination
DPKO Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DPRK Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
DRC Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECA Economic Commission for Africa
ECE Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States
ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ECSWA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU European Union
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FYROM The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GDP gross domestic product
GNP gross national product
HIV/AIDS human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
ICCC International Criminal Court
ICJ International Court of Justice
ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT information and communication technology
ICTR International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
IDA International Development Association
IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
IDC International Development Corporation
ILO International Labour Organization
IMF International Monetary Fund
IMO International Maritime Organization
ITU International Telecommunication Union
IUR International Unit on Radiants
JID least developed country
MDGs Millennium Development Goals
MINUGUA United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala
MINURSO United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSTAH United Nations Stabilization Force in Haiti
MONUC United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MRU Mano River Union
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO non-governmental organization
NSGT Non-Self-Governing Territory
OAS Organization of American States
ODA official development assistance
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIQS Office of Internal Oversight Services
ONUB United Nations Operation in Burundi
OSCE Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA Palestinian Authority
UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAMA United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNAMSIL United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDOF United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (Golan Heights)
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFICYP United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNMEE United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
UNMIK United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMIL United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNMOGIP United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNMOVIC United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission
UNOCI United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire
UNODC United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
UNOMIG United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East
UNTSO United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization
WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
WMDs weapons of mass destruction
WMO World Meteorological Organization
WTO World Trade Organization
YUN Yearbook of the United Nations
EXPLANATORY NOTE ON DOCUMENTS

References in square brackets in each chapter of Parts One to Five of this volume give the symbols of the main documents issued in 2004 on the topic. The following is a guide to the principal document symbols:

A/- refers to documents of the General Assembly, numbered in separate series by session. Thus, A/59/- refers to documents issued for consideration at the fifty-ninth session, beginning with A/59/1. Documents of special and emergency special sessions are identified as A/S- and A/ES-, followed by the session number.

A/C.- refers to documents of the Assembly’s Main Committees, e.g. A/C.1/-, is a document of the First Committee. A/BUR/- refers to documents of the General Committee. A/CN.- documents are those of the Assembly’s ad hoc bodies and A/CN.-, of its commissions; e.g. A/AC.105/- identifies documents of the Assembly’s Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, A/CN.4/-, of its International Law Commission. Assembly resolutions and decisions since the thirty-first (1976) session have been identified by two arabic numerals; the first indicates the session of adoption; the second, the sequential number in the series. Resolutions are numbered consecutively from 1 at each session. Decisions since the fifty-seventh session are numbered consecutively, from 401 for those concerned with elections and appointments, and from 501 for all other decisions. Decisions of special and emergency special sessions are numbered consecutively, from 11 for those concerned with elections and appointments, and from 21 for all other decisions.

E/- refers to documents of the Economic and Social Council, numbered in separate series by year. Thus, E/2004/- refers to documents issued for consideration by the Council at its 2004 sessions, beginning with E/2004/1. E/AC.-, E/C.- and E/CN.-, followed by identifying numbers, refer to documents of the Council’s subsidiary ad hoc bodies, committees and commissions. For example, E/CN.5/- refers to documents of the Council’s Commission for Social Development. E/C.2/-, to documents of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. E/Icef/- documents are those of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Symbols for the Council’s resolutions and decisions, since 1978, consist of two arabic numerals: the first indicates the year of adoption and the second, the sequential number in the series. There are two series: one for resolutions, beginning with 1 (resolution 2004/1); and one for decisions, beginning with 201 (decision 2004/201).

S/- refers to documents of the Security Council. Its resolutions are identified by consecutive numbers followed by the year of adoption in parentheses, beginning with resolution 1(1946).

ST/-, followed by symbols representing the issuing department or office, refers to documents of the United Nations Secretariat.

Documents of certain bodies bear special symbols, including the following:

CD/- Conference on Disarmament
CERD/- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
DC/- Disarmament Commission
DP/- United Nations Development Programme
HS/- Commission on Human Settlements
ITC/- International Trade Centre
TD/- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP/- United Nations Environment Programme

Many documents of the regional commissions bear special symbols, which are sometimes preceded by the following:

E/ECA/- Economic Commission for Africa
E/ECE/- Economic Commission for Europe
E/ECLAC/- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
E/ESCAP/- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
E/ESCWA/- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

“L” in a symbol refers to documents of limited distribution, such as draft resolutions; “CONF,” to documents of a conference; “INF.” to those of general information. Summary records are designated by “SR.,” verbatim records by “PV,” each followed by the meeting number.

United Nations sales publications each carry a sales number with the following components separated by periods: a capital letter indicating the language(s) of the publication; two arabic numerals indicating the year; a Roman numeral indicating the subject category; a capital letter indicating a subdivision of the category, if any; and an arabic numeral indicating the number of the publication within the category. Examples: E.04.IIA.2; E/FA/R.O4.II.E.7; E.04.X.I.

Documents cited in the text in square brackets may be obtained through the UN Official Document System by logging on to: http://documents.un.org.