Chapter VII Economic and social questions

Environment and human settlements

In 2005, the United Nations and the international community continued to work towards protecting the environment through legally binding instruments and the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council/sixth Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and an updated UNEP water policy and strategy. The Governing Council also adopted decisions on strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami; chemicals management; poverty and the environment; and gender equality in the field of the environment. A summary of discussions on the environmental underpinnings of the Millennium Development Goals, held during the session by ministers and delegation heads, was submitted by the Governing Council President as a contribution to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (2005 World Summit) in September.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), a four-year international assessment to evaluate the state of major ecosystems and their links with human well-being, was completed in 2005, and two MA reports were released. The Global International Waters Assessment, which studied international waters and causes of environmental problems in 66 water regions, was also concluded and several reports on its findings were published. A second International Workshop on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, known as the Global Marine Assessment, was convened in June. In November, the Assembly endorsed the Workshop’s conclusions and decided to launch an “assessment of assessments”, to be completed within two years.

The Montreal Protocol to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force on 16 February; the first Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol was convened in November/December. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was held in May.

The Assembly declared 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth and encouraged Member States, the UN system and other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of Earth sciences for the achievement of sustainable development and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued to support the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals, with a focus on the Goal aimed at improving the lives of slum-dwellers. It supported local, national and regional human settlements development activities, including through the placement of Habitat Programme Managers in 32 countries. Among other measures, the Programme’s Governing Council decided to accelerate the implementation of a cooperation framework with the World Bank Group and regional development banks, to increase resources and capacities for improving access to basic services for all and to strengthen the Slum Upgrading Facility of UN-Habitat.

Environment

UN Environment Programme

Governing Council/Ministerial Forum

The sixth Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF), also serving as the twenty-third session of the Governing Council (GC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21 to 25 February [A/60/25]. On 25 February [dec. 23/12], the Governing Council decided to hold its ninth special session in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 February 2006 and its twenty-fourth session in Nairobi, from 5 to 9 February 2007, and approved the provisional agendas for those sessions.
Ministerial consultations (21-23 February) discussed the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 31], including the MDGs on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, environmental sustainability, and the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women [ibid., p. 32]. A summary of the discussions [A/60/25/Add.1], prepared by the Governing Council President as a contribution to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (2005 World Summit) (see p. 47), contained recommendations addressed to the international community and UNEP for the accelerated and sustainable implementation of the three goals.

The Committee of the Whole (21-25 February) [UNEP/GC.25/31] considered assessment, monitoring and early warning; state of the environment (see p. 1135); international environmental governance (see p. 1134); cooperation and coordination matters (see p. 1139); and the UNEP programme of work (see p. 1135), the Environment Fund (see p. 1145) and administrative and other budgetary matters (ibid.).

On 27 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Governing Council’s report on its twenty-third session [decision 2005/312].

Subsidiary body

In 2005, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which was open to representatives of all UN Member States and members of specialized agencies, held an extraordinary meeting on 1 February [UNEP/CPR/90/3] and regular meetings on 15 March [UNEP/CPR/91/2], 9 June [UNEP/CPR/92/2], 12 September [UNEP/CPR/93/2] and 28 December [UNEP/CPR/94/2]. The Committee discussed, among other matters, preparations for the Governing Council’s ninth (2006) special session, the fourteenth (2005) session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see p. 920) and the 2005 World Summit (see p. 47); implementation of UNEP’s programme of work and the relevant decisions of the Council’s eighth special session [YUN 2004, p. 1066] and its twenty-second [YUN 2003, p. 1056] and twenty-third (2005) sessions; UNEP relations with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON); and the status of the Environment Fund.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/60/488], adopted resolution 60/189 without vote [agenda item 52].
programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, including through the provision of adequate financial resources;

7. **Recalls** the resolve of Member States to promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, aiming to achieve that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment using transparent and science-based risk assessment and risk management procedure, by adopting and implementing a voluntary strategic approach to international management of chemicals, and to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, as appropriate;

8. **Calls upon** the United Nations Environment Programme to continue within its mandate its activities related to small island developing States, in pursuance of the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis from 10 to 14 January 2005;

9. **Emphasizes** the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and welcomes the continued active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Development Group;

10. ** Welcomes** the progress made in the implementation of the provisions of section III.B. of the appendix to decision XXVII/1 of the Governing Council on strengthening the role and financial situation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the significant broadening of the donor base and increasing total contributions to the Environment Fund, and in this regard notes that the Governing Council will review the implementation of those provisions at its twenty-fourth session;

11. **Reiterates** the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997(XVIII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

12. **Emphasizes** the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

13. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth special session”.

### International environmental governance

The Governing Council considered a report of the Executive Director on international environmental governance [UNEP/GC.23/6], which discussed progress achieved with regard to the universal membership of GC/GMEF (see below); the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building (see p. 1135); strengthening UNEP’s scientific base (see p. 1136) and UNEP financing (see p. 1143); multilateral environmental agreements (see p. 1145); and enhanced coordination across the UN system, including the Environmental Management Group (see p. below).

The report summarized the divergent views on the universal membership of GC/GMEF submitted by Governments participating in an international seminar on the future of UNEP governance, hosted by Sweden (Stockholm, 22-23 November 2004). Those views related to strengthening UNEP, decision-making, voting rights, and administrative costs, among other issues.

On 25 February [A/60/25 (dec. 23/1, section III)], the Governing Council decided to review further and consider the issue of universal membership at its ninth (2006) special session, with a view to providing inputs to the Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first (2006) session. Also before the Council was a report of the Executive Director on the outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to GC/GMEF [UNEP/GC.23/4].

### Environmental Management Group

The Environmental Management Group (EMG), an inter-agency advisory group set up in 1999 to coordinate UN system activities in addressing the major challenges in the UNEP work programme [YUN 1999, p. 95], held its tenth meeting in Geneva on 8 February.

The Executive Director, in a report on environmental governance [UNEP/GC.23/6], reported that, with the assistance of an independent expert in institutional arrangements, he had conducted a comprehensive assessment on the secretive’s location. The assessment, in the form of an EMG study, examined the mandate and other aspects of EMG and suggested that EMG should address interests and issues of common concern to all of its members and that the Group be provided with the resources commensurate with its system-wide responsibilities. An excerpt from the study was included in the Executive Director’s report.

On 25 February [dec. 23/1, sec. VI], the Governing Council acknowledged the 2004 report on EMG’s work [YUN 2004, p. 1039] and the assessment of the location of the EMG secretariat. In that regard, it
called upon the Executive Director to discuss the issue with EMG members and the Committee of Permanent Representatives and report to the Council on the outcome of those discussions in 2007. The Executive Director was asked to continue to promote UN system-wide coordination on environmental activities through EMG’s work.

**Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building**

**UNEP action.** On 25 February [dec. 23/1, sec. 1], the Governing Council adopted the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building, first adopted by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building in 2004 (YUN 2004, p. 1040). The Council requested the Executive Director to: give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan; undertake, as a matter of priority, the necessary steps regarding coordination mechanisms, as provided for in the Plan; work out a resource-mobilization strategy and coordinate with other funding agencies to ensure immediate and sustained implementation; and report, in 2006, on measures taken for the full implementation of the Plan and on the further implementation thereof in 2007. Governments in a position to do so were invited to provide additional financial resources for the Plan’s full implementation.

The Governing Council took further action with regard to the Bali Strategic Plan in a decision on its budget and work programme [dec. 23/5] (see p. 1143).

**Report of Executive Director.** A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.IX/11E/14] contained the report of the high-level consultation on South-South Cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan (Jakarta, Indonesia, 23-24 November). A central objective of the consultation was to examine the scope, extent and potential of South-South cooperation in environment; explore the means to build on existing experiences, capacities and programmes; and improve the coordination and participation of countries in the South. The consultation considered the modalities of a strategy to promote South-South cooperation in environment in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan and made a series of recommendations towards that end. UNEP was requested to develop a comprehensive programme of action for South-South cooperation, taking into consideration a number of elements presented in the report, to be submitted to the Governing Council in 2007. UNEP should incorporate the recommendations into the Executive Director’s report on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for submission to the Governing Council in 2006. The Governing Council President concluded that the recommendations would be used as the road map and programme of actions to be undertaken by UNEP in collaboration with relevant international organizations, and would constitute essential elements in the operationalization of the Bali Strategic Plan.

**UNEP activities**

In his February policy statement [UNEP/GC.23/2], the Executive Director discussed the outcomes of major intergovernmental meetings dealing with environmental issues; international environmental governance; and the proposed 2006-2007 UNEP programme and budget. The twenty-third (2005) GC/GMEF session would stress the twin themes of implementation and placing environment clearly in the context of development. UNEP would also continue its efforts in its five areas of concentration: environmental information, assessment and early warning; enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development of environmental policy instruments; freshwater; technology transfer and industry; and support to Africa. The Bali Strategic Plan (see above) provided a blueprint for UNEP to assist in moving to a more stable future and its operationalization and adequate funding would be a lasting legacy of the twenty-third (2005) GC/GMEF session.

**Monitoring and assessment**

In response to a 2004 Governing Council decision [YUN 2004, p. 1041], the Executive Director submitted a report [UNEP/GC.23/3] evaluating the conclusions and recommendations of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening UNEP’s scientific base, also known as the Science Initiative. It proposed the development of a coherent, dynamic assessment framework, tentatively called “Environment Watch”, for assessing the global environmental situation and providing policy-relevant recommendations to decision makers at all levels. The report also described priority actions for strengthening UNEP’s scientific base, including efforts to: map the assessment landscape; design the fourth Global Environment Outlook report (see p. 1142); conduct thematic assessments; promote environmental early warning; observing and monitoring; strengthen regional dimensions of assessment, monitoring and early warning activities; promote the use of environmental indicators; revitalize networking structures for information and data management; and promote links between the on-
going multi-stakeholder consultative process to strengthen UNEP’s scientific base, and the intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building (see p. 1135).

A note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/18 & Corr.1] contained the evaluation of the conclusions and recommendations of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening UNEP’s scientific base and UNEP’s response thereon; described in greater detail the characteristics and components of the proposed “Environment Watch” framework; outlined plans to revitalize networking structures to support the new framework; and provided more detailed information on proposed actions by UNEP with respect to environmental indicators as a key element of the framework. Other annexes provided information on ongoing thematic assessments undertaken by UNEP in collaboration with other partners; the regional dimensions of assessment and early warning activities; a progress report on the Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (see p. 1158); a summary of the outcome of the First Plenary Meeting of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (Nairobi, Kenya, 30 August 2004); and background information on the ad hoc intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations and the Global Earth Observations System of Systems.

A further note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/INF/15] assessed the collection of data on environmental statistics conducted jointly by UNEP and the United Nations Statistics Division in 2004. It also detailed information on ongoing thematic assessments undertaken by UNEP in collaboration with other partners; the regional dimensions of assessment and early warning activities; a progress report on the Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (see p. 1158); a summary of the outcome of the First Plenary Meeting of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (Nairobi, Kenya, 30 August 2004); and background information on the ad hoc intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations and the Global Earth Observations System of Systems.

Governing Council action. On 25 February [dec. 23/1, sec. II], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to update his proposal for the “Environment Watch” framework, taking into account the recommendations of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening UNEP’s scientific base (Nairobi, Kenya, 14-15 January 2004) [UNEP/SC/IGC/9] and the outcome of the international and multi-stakeholder consultation on the fourth Global Environment Outlook (Nairobi, 19-20 February 2005) [UNEP/DEWA/GEO/IGC.1/2] (see p. 1142), and to submit that update to Governments for their views, so as to enable the submission of a report to the Governing Council in 2006. It invited Governments in a position to do so and other development partners to provide funding, including through in-kind support for the participation of national scientific experts and institutions, particularly from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for the further strengthening UNEP’s scientific base.

Support to Africa

In a December report on the state of the environment and UNEP’s contributions to addressing substantive environmental challenges [UNEP/GCSS.IX/10], the Executive Director said that the preparation of the second Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-2) report had been completed. AEO-2 highlighted the central role Africa’s environment continued to play in sustaining livelihoods, and discussed opportunities for Africans to use their environmental resources to reduce absolute poverty. Its recommendations were adopted unanimously by African environment ministers at the second Partners’ Conference on the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (Dakar, Senegal, 15-16 March).

On 10 January, UNEP and the NEPAD secretariat signed a three-year agreement (2005-2008) aimed at enhancing the human and institutional capacities of the subregional African Economic Communities for the implementation of the NEPAD Environment Initiative. UNEP and the African Institute for Capacity Development jointly organized a technical workshop (Nairobi, Kenya, 21-25 November), which trained participants in environmental impact assessments, geographical information systems and tools, synergies and integrated reporting and coordinated response. From April to July, UNEP, in partnership with the NEPAD secretariat, the African Regional Economic Communities and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment organized consultative meetings (Algeria, Botswana, Djibouti, Gabon, Nigeria) to review the first draft of the NEPAD subregional environmental action plan.

In 2005, 12 UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects devoted exclusively to Africa were approved, with total funding of $106.1 million.

Water policy and strategy

Based on the discussions of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP and further informal consultations on UNEP’s updated water policy and strategy, submitted in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1042], the Executive Director, in February [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1 & Add 1], submitted a revised (2005) version of the updated policy and strategy together with an explanatory note on the revisions. The section of the strategy dealing with the environmentally sound management of freshwater was substantially amended to provide a better indication of UNEP’s intended freshwater-related activities for the 2005-2007 period,
and the link between UNEP’s work and that of other UN water-related activities and programmes. The revised text also included a new section dealing with coral reefs (see p. 1130).

On 25 February [dec. 23/2], the Governing Council adopted the 2005 updated water policy and strategy as a general framework and guidance for UNEP’s activities in the field of water and sanitation for the period 2005-2007. It recommended that the Executive Director, in reviewing the updated policy and strategy, take into account ecosystem approaches to integrated water resource management; emerging concepts; global assessment and monitoring; innovative instruments; participation and water governance; support to regional and subregional water bodies; groundwater; the final report of the World Commission on Dams; and conceptual precision in the use of the terms “global waters”, “international waters” and “transboundary waters” applied to oceans, seas and inland bodies of water. The Executive Director should, in respect of the updated water policy and strategy, monitor its implementation, intensify collaborative activities with Governments, organizations and agencies in that regard, and circulate a report on the implementation and resource allocation before the ninth (2006) GC/GMEF special session. He should also support developing countries and countries with economies in transition through UNEP’s programmes. The revised text also included a new section dealing with coral reefs (see p. 1130).

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The atmosphere

In 2005, UNEP assessed the impact of aerosol pollution on regional climate, the hydrological cycle, agriculture and human health in the Asia and Pacific region. The Atmospheric Brown Cloud project continued to study a three kilometer-deep pollution blanket that formed over parts of Asia during the monsoon season. UNEP capacity-building activities included the establishment of three observatory stations and training programmes for Asian scientists, and a team to assess the impact of the atmospheric brown cloud on agriculture, water resources and public health.

In June, UNEP, along with the World Bank’s Community Development Carbon Fund and the UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development, launched the Carbon Finance for Sustainable Energy in Africa initiative. The $1.2 million, one-year project was designed to build public and private sector capacity in five sub-Saharan African countries to identify, develop and implement projects under the Clean Development Mechanism of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [YUN 1992, p. 681]. UNEP was implementing a $2.5 million project in the Asia and the Pacific region to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions.

Environment and sustainable development

In response to a 2004 Governing Council decision [YUN 2004, p. 1043], the Executive Director submitted, in January [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6/Rev1], an
updated report on the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (Barbados Programme of Action) [UNEP 1994, p. 781] (Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January), which adopted the Mauritius Declaration and Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (see p.946). The report examined UNEP’s mandate for SIDS-related activities and UNEP’s contributions to the Review Meeting and follow-up activities.

In preparation for the review of the Programme of Action, UNEP provided SIDS with substantive and financial support for the preparation of national assessment reports, the organization of thematic workshops, participation in regional preparatory meetings and the elaboration and dissemination of technical reports. Together with partners, UNEP organized several side events with direct links to the Meeting, and was a major actor in the elaboration of the Mauritius Strategy and the Programme of Action. In terms of follow-up action, further attention would be paid within the UNEP programmatic areas during the 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 biennia to several elements of the Strategy, including good governance and South-South cooperation in capacity-building, disaster management and other environmental issues. UNEP would renew its cooperation with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme; strengthen cooperation with the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas group of States; and link its cooperation with the Atlantic and Indian Ocean small island developing States with the NEPAD Environment Initiative. In the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster [UNEP 2004, p. 992], it would concentrate on assessing damage to coastlines and coral reefs and on identifying restoration measures. In the Caribbean, UNEP’s work would be framed within the context of a Caribbean small island developing States programme. The report also contained updated information on modalities for the effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2004 Governing Council decision on SIDS [ibid., p. 1045].

**Governing Council action.** On 25 February [dec. 23/5], the Council noted the outcomes of the International Meeting and requested the Executive Director to continue strengthening UNEP’s SIDS-related activities and to rationalize UNEP’s delivery in the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the South China Sea and the Caribbean regions. He should also ensure that UNEP’s SIDS-related activities contributed to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and report to the Council in 2007.

**Commission on Sustainable Development action.**


**Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)**

A report of the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.23/5] contained an overview of recent UNEP activities contributing to the implementation of the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] with regard to water, sanitation and human settlements. It examined UNEP’s contribution to the Commission on Sustainable Development; to poverty, gender and environment; technology support and capacity-building; regional support; international environmental governance; and other areas of progress.

On 25 February [dec. 23/10], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to enhance UNEP’s activities in all regions to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment, and assist Governments to integrate environmental decision-making into social and economic policy on poverty eradication, in accordance with UNEP’s mandate and in line with its programme of work.

**Policy and advisory services**

**Trade and the environment**

Coordination and cooperation

Business and industry

In 2005, UNEP finalized a training package on the Global Compact Environmental Principles, which was launched at the Global Compact Summit (Shanghai, China, 30 November–1 December). UNEP continued its involvement in the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), a multi-stakeholder process and independent institution launched in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1058] to develop and disseminate globally applicable, sustainable reporting guidelines. It participated in expert group meetings to develop the third revised version of the GRI guidelines [ibid.] for 2006. UNEP also released the first new tool developed by the Global e-Sustainability Initiative to help companies introduce their social and environmental expectations and engage with factory-level management of their supply chains.

Environmental emergencies

On 25 February [dec. 23/7], the Governing Council noted efforts to develop a five-pillar strategy for responding to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster [YUN 2004, p. 932], in close coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Governments of affected countries. It supported the efforts of Governments and the international community to develop a worldwide early-warning system for natural and human-induced disasters, taking into consideration the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) [YUN 1999, p. 859]. It invited Governments and UN agencies, funds and programmes to continue cooperating with UNEP and OCHA through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (see below) in providing emergency assistance to countries, in particular developing countries facing environmental emergencies and natural disasters with environmental impacts. The Council also invited Governments and relevant institutions to provide extrabudgetary resources for technical cooperation and capacity-building, within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by the Council in February (see p. 1135), for strengthening national- and local-level capacity for coping with the environmental aspects of hazard and risk reduction, early warning, preparedness, response and mitigation. The Executive Director should continue to cooperate with the Governments of countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, the scientific community and other UN bodies, in providing expertise to support emergency environ-

mental planning and assistance; assessing environmental impacts of the tsunami and any subsequent risks to human health and livelihoods; promoting the integration of environmental considerations into wider mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts; promoting international cooperation in the use of renewable energy technologies, particularly in reconstruction efforts; and supporting short- and long-term environmental restoration and management. He should also support the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in coordinating UN efforts to establish the tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia regions and other high-risk areas. The Council asked the Executive Director to cooperate closely with Governments and relevant international organizations and inter-agency mechanisms, ISDR, OCHA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote the environmental components of such systems, including by making use of local observations and indigenous knowledge, and by assisting countries in developing strategies for enhancing ecosystems that mitigated the impact of tsunami and other disasters. The Executive Director was further asked to continue developing, in close consultation with Governments, relevant international institutions and secretariats of multilateral environment agreements, an environmental approach to the identification and assessment of areas potentially at risk from disasters, and guidelines outlining procedures and methodologies for environmental assessments of disasters; and to report to the Council in 2006.

Report of Executive Director. The Executive Director submitted a December report [UNEP/GCSS.IX/5] on environmental emergency response and disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems. The report summarized UNEP’s assistance to the countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami; highlighted the activities of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit; and noted UNEP’s continuing role within the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in reducing disaster vulnerability and implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January) (see p. 1015).

In a joint workshop (Nairobi, Kenya, 31 October and 1 November), OCHA and UNEP reaffirmed their determination to enhance the international community’s ability to assist countries affected by, and vulnerable to, natural disasters and environmental emergencies, and to strengthen further their collaboration through
the Joint Unit. UNEP would continue to provide technical expertise to the UN system and affected countries to ensure that environmental issues were integrated into disaster response and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction plans.

In response to requests from Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Yemen, UNEP established the Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force (ATDTF) and deployed nearly 30 environmental experts to the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami to assist environmental authorities in assessing damage and reconstruction needs. A preliminary report entitled “After the Tsunami—Rapid Environmental Assessment”, containing a summary of the main impact and recovery needs, was released on 22 February. UNEP also provided expertise to support environmental assessments, strengthen the capacity of environmental authorities, promote sound environmental solutions and provide management tools for integrating environmental factors into recovery and reconstruction plans. It supported the implementation of environmental rehabilitation and recovery activities in Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. In conjunction with ATDF and GPA, the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden hosted a meeting on coastal zone rehabilitation management for the tsunami-affected region (Cairo, 17 February), which adopted 12 guiding principles for environmentally-sound coastal rehabilitation and reconstruction, known as the Cairo Principles. As a follow-up to the Cairo meeting, the GPA coordinating office mobilized resources to support national-level dialogue in the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Through the flash appeal on strengthening early-warning systems in tsunami-affected countries, which was launched in January (see p. 1024), UNEP assisted Governments in building their capacity for early warning and disaster risk reduction. In February, UNEP organized a technical meeting on debris and waste management, as part of its contribution to the United Nations Post-tsunami Waste Management Plan. In Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka, UNEP was helping build capacity to guide the reconstruction process and monitor the environmental situation, and to conduct environmental impact screening of reconstruction activities and strategic environmental assessments of proposed plans and programmes.

(For more information concerning post-tsunami recovery efforts, see p. 1024.)

In response to the South Asia earthquake of 8 October (see p. 1034), the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit deployed two United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)-trained environmental experts with UNDAC teams to Islamabad, Mianehra and Muzafarabad, Pakistan. The teams identified urgent environmental needs and recommended the immediate deployment of additional assistance in the areas of waste management, deforestation and landslides. With support from Sweden and Switzerland, the Joint Unit deployed two waste management experts to ensure that waste management was fully integrated into the response phase, especially in the areas of water and sanitation, camp management and health. In mid-October, UNEP was invited to contribute to the UN post-earthquake early recovery needs assessment and to lead the environment sector. At the request of Pakistan’s Ministry of Environment, UNEP, in cooperation with OCHA, compiled a preliminary environmental assessment report, launched on 19 November in Islamabad, which was used to promote immediate recovery and meet longer-term environmental needs. Also in collaboration with the Ministry, UNEP was designing an environmental recovery programme.

Other activities of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Unit included interventions concerning forest fires in Indonesia and Peru; risk and needs assessments regarding a natural dam for retaining Lake Nyos in Cameroon, which was in danger of collapse; and floods and mudslides in Guatemala caused by Hurricane Stan. The Joint Unit also led a multi-stakeholder capacity-building mission to Iran in July to assist in the development of an environmental emergency centre; developed a chapter on environmental emergencies as part of the UNDAC Field Handbook; and facilitated, with the Swedish Rescue Services Agency, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Partnership for Peace international course on environmental disaster operations. The Joint Unit facilitated training on secondary environmental impacts during natural disaster response at the UNDAC induction course for Asia, held in Singapore in August and September.

The sixth meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE), convened jointly by UNEP and OCHA (Geneva, 22-24 June), discussed the UNEP Strategic Plan on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response, as well as the environmental response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The UNEP Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APEL) programme was strengthened as a key vehicle for local level disaster-related work. To further promote the APEL process, UNEP was revisiting, adapting and developing new tools and methods to repackaging it as a multi-hazard disaster reduction programme. Pursuant to ISDR findings,
UNEP initiated the establishment of the Working Group on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, which aimed to foster understanding of environmental concerns and integrate them into the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Global Environment Facility


At the end of 2005, the cumulative UNEP/GEF work programme was financed to $1.1 billion, including $329 million in GEF resources, for activities in 153 countries. Through GEF enabling activities related to biodiversity, climate change, POPs and capacity-building needs assessment for global environmental management, UNEP assisted 139 countries in meeting their obligations to the global environmental conventions and building capacity to implement them.

Fifty new UNEP/GEF initiatives were approved in 2005, with funding of $325.8 million, including $96.8 million in GEF grant financing.

Memorandum of understanding

On 5 January [UNEP/GC.23/INF/15], UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with UNDP, by which the two Programmes would inform each other of their respective capacity development and other initiatives and actively seek mutual involvement. The MOU built on existing collaborative arrangements between them and sought to further enhance effectiveness and avoid duplication.

Participation of civil society


The second Tunza International Youth Conference (Bangalore, India, 12-18 October), was organized by UNEP and India’s Centre for Environmental Education (CEE) to discuss the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51] and cooperation among youth organizations. The Conference brought together 150 young adults aged 15 to 24, who shared experiences on community-based environmental action and developed joint strategies to promote environmental protection. Conference outcomes included individual commitments by participants, the establishment of partnership projects and model action plans for youth organizations, and a CEE international internship programme.

UNEP and the Global Sports Alliance co-organized the Sport Summit for the Environment (Nagoya, Japan, 30-31 July), which was also part of the 2005 World Exposition. UNEP and the International Olympic Committee organized the sixth World Conference on Sport and the Environment (Nairobi, Kenya, 9-11 November), which highlighted the link between sport, peace and the environment. The Declaration of the Conference called on the world of sport to identify and share examples of best practice in providing leadership and training in achieving peace and sustainable development through sport.

The sixth Global Civil Society Forum (Nairobi, 19-20 February) [UNEP/GCS/6/1] discussed draft Governing Council decisions; the UNEP programme of work and national committees; civil society engagement in GC/GMEF; and the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami (see P. 1024).

A January note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GC.25/INF/15] contained the global civil society statement to the twenty-third (2005) session of GC/GMEF. A number of statement by regional civil society organizations from the African, Asia and the Pacific, European and Central Asian, Latin America and the Caribbean, North American, and West Asian regions were submitted also to the Forum [UNEP/GC.25/INF/16/Add.1-6].

Cooperation with UN-Habitat

A January report [UNEP/GC.25/INF/22] prepared jointly by the Executive Directors of UNEP
and UN-Habitat described cooperation between the two organizations in the areas of assessment; policy; development and implementation of joint initiatives; cooperation in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean region; and opportunities for future cooperation.

**Gender and the environment**

**Governing Council action.** On 25 February [dec. 23/11], the Governing Council adopted a four-part decision on gender equality in the field of the environment. With regard to equal participation in decision-making, the Governing Council invited Governments to promote women’s participation in environmental decision-making at all levels, with the aim of achieving broad gender balance. It encouraged the Executive Director to work with other UN agencies to assist Governments in promoting the equal participation of women and men in policy formulation, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and reporting on sustainable development; the sharing of good examples of gender-sensitive environmental initiatives; and the development of a mentorship programme to encourage young women to take an active role in environmental policy formulation and decision-making. He should also enhance the development and dissemination of gender-disaggregated analyses, and data and information on UNEP issues and activities, and strengthen further the involvement of women in those activities.

On the issue of gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and programmes, the Council called on the Executive Director to develop and promote gender-equality criteria for the implementation of programmes and to apply the UNEP gender-sensitivity guidelines. In the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building [YUN 2004, p. 1040], the Executive Director should take into account the Plan’s objective with regard to gender-mainstreaming and the participation of women in environmental decision-making [ibid.]. He was also asked to give an account of lessons learned about gender-related aspects of environmental issues in conflict situations and to apply the conclusions drawn from them to UNEP’s post-conflict assessment work.

As to assessing the effects of environmental policies on women, the Council requested the Executive Director, in collaboration with UNDP, to assist Governments in building capacity for gender mainstreaming in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan; collaborate with scientific institutions to promote research-exchange programmes on gender and the environment as an input to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 57/254 [YUN 2002, p. 826], and work with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and other relevant human rights bodies in identifying lessons learned on gender-related aspects of environmental issues.

With regard to implementation, the Council invited Governments, in accordance with its 1999 decision on women in environment and development [YUN 1999, p. 979], to designate gender focal points and to notify the Executive Director thereof, and involve all stakeholders in their gender-equality and environment-related activities. The Executive Director was invited to explore options, in consultation with Governments, for developing an action plan for gender mainstreaming within UNEP’s work, to integrate further gender-equality and environment activities into the Programme’s work, communicate the current decision to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1274) and report to the Council in 2007.

**UNEP activities.** The creation of a Gender and Environment Unit within UNEP’s Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch in July 2005, strengthened women’s capacity to participate in and shape environmental policy and action at all levels. Gender equality was a cross-cutting priority in all UNEP activities, and UNEP was systematically integrating gender perspectives into its programme design and implementation, along with measurable goals and indicators. The Capacity Building of Women for Energy and Water Management in the Himalayas project, conducted in Bhutan, India and Nepal, aimed to empower women to meet their water and energy needs.

**General Assembly issues**

In January [UNEP/GC.23/INF/3], the Executive Director provided information on the issues arising from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 2004 that called for action by, or were of relevance to, UNEP.

**Global Environment Outlook**

A February note by the Executive Director [UNEP/DEWA/GEO/IGC.1/2] addressed key aspects of the preparation, by 2007, of the fourth comprehensive Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report, as mandated by the Governing Council in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1099]. The note contained suggested elements for a proposed statement by the Global Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on the fourth GEO (Nairobi, Kenya, 19-20 February), reflecting its
conclusions and recommendations on the GEO report’s scope and process, and background information on the GEO process, the mandate for the report and its role in strengthening UNEP’s scientific base. The note also outlined the proposed process, scope and overall structure of the fourth GEO report, together with proposed key questions to be considered by experts within the assessment process.

On 25 February [dec. 23/6], the Governing Council acknowledged the findings of the GEO Yearbook 2004-2005 [YUN 2004, p. 1048], published in February, and welcomed its focus on gender, poverty and environment. It called on Governments and intergovernmental organizations to mainstream gender considerations into their relevant environmental policies, plans, programmes and activities, in particular through promoting: gender-balanced participation in environmental assessments, monitoring, policy and decision making; gender perspectives in the design of assessment, monitoring and early-warning processes and identifying priority environment-related data sets for gender disaggregation; and gender dimensions in the formulation of environmental policies, decisions and actions. The Council decided that the feature focus of the 2005-2006 GEO Yearbook should be energy and air pollution, which were also the corresponding thematic cluster of issues for the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for 2006-2007 (see p. 920). It noted the importance of environmental management in controlling emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; in that connection, it called on Governments to promote cooperation between health and environmental authorities and requested the Executive Director to keep the human health aspect of environmental change under review in cooperation with the scientific community and relevant international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization (WHO). The Council noted emerging scientific evidence relating to global climate change and its impacts and encouraged the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (see p. 1154) to take such evidence into account in its fourth assessment report. It encouraged Governments, the private sector and civil society to continue to address the serious challenges of global climate change, including through the implementation of international agreements. Noting the environmental indicators presented in the GEO Yearbook and the cooperation between the Executive Director and the United Nations Statistics Division on environment statistics, the Council called on Governments to undertake national networking for data collection and dissemination, provide data of high quality and credibility for GEO Yearbook indicators, and respond to the United Nations Statistics Division/UNEP questionnaire on environment statistics. It invited Governments and international organizations to support capacity-building for data collection and management in support of the GEO Yearbook environmental indicators and for the broader collaboration between the United Nations Statistics Division and UNEP. The Executive Director was asked to establish a process for developing the fourth GEO report as an integrated assessment of global environment. Governments and relevant institutions were called upon to provide extrabudgetary resources for technical cooperation and capacity-building.

**UNEP secretariat**

**OIOS audit and inspection services**

The Secretary-General submitted, in September [A/60/46], the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, which highlighted OIOS reports submitted to UNEP programme managers on: audit of the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and co-located agreement secretariats; audit of the Post-Conflict Assessment Unit; and Investigation into allegations of misconduct in that Unit.

**Administrative and budgetary matters**

**Environment Fund**

In a February note [UNEP/GC.23/INF/6], the Executive Director provided information on the status of the Environment Fund and other sources of UNEP funding, as well as an overview of the availability of resources and their use over the 2004-2005 biennium.

Following consideration of the proposed 2006-2007 biennial programme and support budget [UNEP/GC.23/8 & Corr.1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [UNEP/GC.23/8/ Add1], the Governing Council, on 25 February [dec. 23/3], approved appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of $144 million, including $16 million for the support budget and $6 million for the Fund programme reserve. It noted that an increase in funding from the UN regular budget for UNON or UNEP in 2006-2007 would decrease the requirement under the support budget, and the released resources should be reallocated for programme activities or the Environment Fund reserve. Governments
were urged to support further strengthening of the Environment Fund through the options envisaged by the Council in its 2002 decision [YUN 2002, p. 1022], including the voluntary indicative scale of contributions. The Executive Director was authorized to reallocate resources between budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources were reallocated, and up to 20 per cent, if needed, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. He was also authorized to enter into forward commitments not exceeding $20 million for Fund programme activities for the 2004-2005 biennium, and to increase the end of the financial reserve to $20 million as and when carry-over resources became available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 biennia. He should step up efforts to mobilize resources from all sources, in order to broaden further the donor base and to enhance income levels.

The Council requested the Executive Director to provide financial details of the work programme to Governments, as well as information on progress made in its implementation twice yearly and to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a quarterly basis, with comprehensive information on all financial arrangements made available for UNEP, including core funding, the Environment Fund, earmarked funds and payments by GEF and other sources. He was asked to: propose, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, ways of addressing the balance between non-earmarked and earmarked funding of the work programme and ensure clarity with respect to resources and expected results; prepare for the 2008-2009 biennium a work programme consisting of Environment Fund programme activities amounting to $130 million; and submit, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined draft budget and work programme for the 2008-2009 biennium for consideration and approval by the Governing Council in 2007. He was further asked to submit a detailed proposal for the further implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building [YUN 2004, p. 1040] to the Council in 2006, including an assessment of the availability of requisite technical and financial resources, as well as the implications for UNEP’s work programme and budget.

(For further information regarding the Bali Strategic Plan, see p. 1135.)

Trust funds

The Executive Director submitted a proposal [UNEP/GC.23/9] to reduce the number of trust funds in support of the UNEP work programme, and information on the management of the existing trust funds. Of the 70 trust funds reviewed to determine whether they should have their activities rapidly completed and be closed, the Executive Director expected, that by the end of the 2004-2005 biennium, that number would be reduced to about 31, and another five would have their activities completed and would be closed in 2006.

The Executive Director developed a new partnership agreement policy, whereby donor Governments would provide funding for a number of UNEP programmes and/or activities, and instead of several trust funds for each programme activity, a single trust fund was established for each partnership agreement. Through the new policy, the Executive Director expected to reduce to the minimum the number of trust funds in support of the work programme, especially since most of the trust funds to be closed would not be replaced.

Another possible option for the reduction of trust funds would be to merge into one the 14 personnel trust funds that were expected to be active in 2006-2007. However, the Executive Director was reluctant to reconsider that option, since there was no support for it.

Seventy-four UNEP-administered trust funds were active as at 15 November 2004, including those that supported the UNEP work plan.

On 25 February, the Governing Council approved the actions proposed by the Executive Director to reduce the number of trust funds in support of the work programme [dec. 23/4, section A]. It also approved the establishment of 16 trust funds, the extension of 24 and the closure of 20 others.

Financial reserve loan

On 25 February [dec. 23/4], the Governing Council noted the Executive Director’s report on administrative and other budgetary matters [UNEP/GC.23/9], which included information on the loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve and the progress achieved in the implementation of the first phase of the construction of additional office accommodation at UNON [YUN 2002, p. 1041]. The Executive Director was asked to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on further progress on loan drawdowns and the status of the construction project.
Flow of financial information

On 25 February [dec. 23/4], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, in conjunction with the executive secretaries of conventions for which UNEP was the trustee, to explore possibilities for further improving the financial information flows to ensure that accurate, up-to-date information was available to convention secretariats at all times, and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereon.

Strengthening UNEP’s financing

The Executive Director, in a note on strengthening UNEP financing [UNEP/GC.23/INF/12], reported on measures taken in that regard, including implementation of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions pilot phase, which began in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1048] and was extended to 2004-2005 [YUN 2000, p.1049]; efforts to mobilize supplementary and earmarked funds; development of cooperation mechanisms, such as the partnership agreement; and efforts to secure increased contributions from the UN regular budget as an important element in the financing of UNEP core activities.

On 25 February [dec. 23/1], the Governing Council reaffirmed its support for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financing of UNEP as a prerequisite for strengthening its capacity and functions, as well as effective coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development. It encouraged Governments to move towards contributions to the Environment Fund in preference to contributions to earmarked trust funds, with a view to enhancing the Council’s role in setting UNEP’s work agenda and priorities and to make their voluntary contributions to the Fund based on either the voluntary indicative scale of contributions or any of the other voluntary options identified in the Council’s 2002 decision on international environmental governance [YUN 2002, p. 1032]. The Council requested the Executive Director, in accordance with that decision, to notify member States of the proposed voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the 2006-2007 biennium, and urged them to inform the Executive Director of their intention to use the proposed scale. He was also asked to: prepare a report to enable the Council at its twenty-fourth (2007) session to assess the operation of the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and the other voluntary options identified in its 2002 decision; continue to seek an increase in funding from all sources to strengthen UNEP’s financial base; and report on all aspects of financial strengthening for consideration by the Council in 2006.

General Assembly action. The General Assembly, in resolution 60/189 of 22 December (see p. 1133), welcomed the progress made in strengthening UNEP’s role and financial situation, including the significant broadening of its donor base and the increase in total contributions to the Environment Fund.

Environmental and equity considerations in procurement practices

On 25 February [dec. 23/8], the Governing Council invited Governments to share with UNEP their experiences, lessons learned and best practices related to environmental and equity considerations in procurement practices. It requested the Executive Director to prepare a compilation report on environmental and equity considerations regarding current UNEP procurement practices and an assessment of their performance, for the Council’s consideration in 2007. He was also asked to report on the implementation of the Council’s 1995 decision on environmental standards within the UN system [YUN 1995, p. 1089].

Extension of term of office of Executive Director

In a November note [A/60/553], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of Mr. Klaus Töpfer’s decision not to seek a further term as UNEP’s Executive Director, and his proposal to extend Mr. Töpfer’s appointment, which was to end on 31 January 2006, for two months, to allow time to identify a suitable successor and ensure continuity in the work of UNEP and its Governing Council.

By decision 60/409 of 23 November, the Assembly extended Mr. Töpfer’s term of office until the end of March 2006.

International conventions and mechanisms

In a January note [UNEP/GC.23/INF/8], the Executive Director provided information on the status of new and existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, covering the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2004.

MEAs

On 25 February [dec. 23/1, sec. V], the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, in accordance with its 2002 decision on international environmental governance [YUN 2002, p. 1033], to continue to focus on improving coordination among, synergy between and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), taking into account the autonomous decision-
making authority of the conferences of the parties
to such agreements and the need to promote
the environmental dimension of sustainable
development among relevant UN organizations.
He was also asked to intensify efforts to support
implementation by parties to MEAs of their obliga-
tions under such agreements, including
through the provision of technical assistance.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to
General Assembly resolutions 59/234 [YUN 2004,
p. 1031], 59/235 [ibid., p. 1055] and 59/236 [ibid.,
p. 1054], the Secretary-General, by a July note
[A/60/171], transmitted reports submitted by the
secretariats of the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change (see below), the
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertifi-
cation in Those Countries Experiencing Serious
Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in
Africa (see p. 1150), and the Convention on Bio-
nological Diversity (see p. 1148), respectively.

**Climate change convention**

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was opened
for signature in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 681] and entered
into force in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 938], remained at
188 States and the European Community (EC).

As at 31 December, 156 States and the EC were
parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention
[YUN 1997, p. 1048]. The Protocol entered into force
on 16 February.

**Conference of Parties**

The eleventh session of the Conference of the
Parties to UNFCCC and the first Conference of the
Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to
the Kyoto Protocol (Montreal, Canada, 28 No-
vember–10 December) [FCCC/CP/2005/5 & Add.1:2] adopted the five-year programme of work of the
Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological
Advice (SBSTA) on impacts, vulnerability and ad-
aptation to climate change. It also adopted tables
of the common reporting format for land use,
land-use change and forestry. Other decisions re-
lated to: a dialogue on long-term cooperative
action to address climate change by enhancing
UNFCCC implementation; the operation of the
Least Developed Countries Fund; extension of
the mandate of the Least Developed Countries
Expert Group; the development and transfer of
technologies; review processes during the 2006-
2007 period for parties included in the Conven-
tion’s annex I list of industrialized countries and
countries with economies in transition; submis-
sion of communications from parties not in-
cluded in annex I; research needs related to the
Convention; flexibility for Croatia under article 4
of the Convention relating to commitments; insti-
tutional linkage of the Convention secretariat
to the United Nations; adjustments under arti-
cle 5 of the Protocol; and other administrative
and financial matters.

In October, the Executive Board of the Kyoto
Protocol’s clean development mechanism issued
its first annual report to the Conference of the
Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to
the Protocol [FCCC/KP/CMP/2005/4 & Add.1], cover-
ing the periods from November 2004 to September
2005 and from 30 September to 27 November
2005.

The twenty-second sessions of SBSTA (19-27
May) [FCCC/SBSTA/2005/4 & Amend.1 & Add.1] and of
the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)
(20-27 May) [FCCC/SBI/2005/10 & Add.1] were held
in Bonn, Germany. In conjunction with those sess-
ions, the UNFCCC secretariat organized a semi-
nar of governmental experts (Bonn, 16-17 May)
to discuss actions relating to the mitigation of,
and adaptation to, climate change, and policies
and measures adopted by the participants’ re-
spective Governments that supported the imple-
mentation of their commitments under UNFCCC
and the Kyoto Protocol. SBSTA [FCCC/SBSTA/
2005/10] and SBI [FCCC/SBI/2005/23] also held their
twenty-third sessions (Montreal, Canada, 28 No-
vember–6 December).

**General Assembly Action**

On 22 December [meeting 68], the General As-
sembly, on the recommendation of the Second
Committee [A/60/488/Add.4], adopted resolution
60/197 without vote [agenda item 52 (d)].

**Protection of global climate for present and future
generations of mankind**

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December
1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its
resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20
December 2002, 58/243 of 23 December 2003 and
59/234 of 22 December 2004 and other resolutions
relating to the protection of the global climate for pres-
ent and future generations of mankind,
Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change, including
the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate
change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all
countries and their participation in an effective and
appropriate international response, in accordance
with their common but differentiated responsibilities
and respective capabilities and their social and eco-
nomic conditions,
Recalling further the Johannesburg Declaration on
Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation
of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
(“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), the Delhi
Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sus-
tangible Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003, and the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Buenos Aires from 6 to 18 December 2004,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Reaffirming the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Noting also that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and fifty-six ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

Noting further the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

1. Calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. Notes that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change welcome the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 and strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. Notes with interest the activities undertaken under the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

4. Takes note of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session, and calls for their implementation;

5. Notes the importance of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 9 December 2005;

6. Also notes the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

8. Invites the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

9. Invites the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind”.

Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

As at 31 December, 189 States and the EC, which entered into force in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 810], numbered 188 States and the EC; to the 1990 Amendment to the Protocol, 179 and the EC; to the 1992 Amendment, 169 and the EC; to the 1997 Amendment, 188 and the EC; to the 1999 Amendment, 102 and the EC.

The second Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Montreal, Canada, 1 July) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.ExMP/2/3] adopted a decision on the 2006 critical-use nominations for methyl bromide, an issue that had been left unresolved at the sixteenth Meeting of the Parties in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1052].

The combined seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 12 to 16 December [UNEP/OzL.Conv/7/7-UNEP/OzL.Pro/37/11]. The Conference of the Parties to the Conven-
tion approved a budget for the Convention Trust Fund of $897,672 for 2006, $589,691 for 2007 and $1,162,601 for 2008, and adopted decisions on other administrative and budgetary matters.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol approved the request of Cyprus to be removed from the list of developing countries under the Protocol and adopted lists of controlled substances as process agents. Other decisions related to ratification issues; essential-use nominations for 2006-2007; process agents 2006-2007 critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide; laboratory and analytical critical uses of methyl bromide; recapturing/recycling and destruction of methyl bromide from space fumigation; minimizing production of chlorofluorocarbons, as well as their use in metered-dose inhalers; laboratory and analytical uses of carbon tetrachloride; coordination between UNEP’s Ozone secretariat and the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat; preventing illegal trade in controlled ozone-depleting substances; the environmentally sound destruction of concentrated and diluted sources of ozone-depleting substances; the assistance of the Ozone secretariat’s Technological and Economic Assessment Panel for the meeting of experts on destruction of ozone-depleting substances, scheduled to take place in Montreal in February 2006; the 2005 report of the Montre"al Protocol and the fixed-exchange-rate Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Protocol; the 2006-2008 replenishment of the Fund’s replenishment; commitments related to ratification issues; essential-use nominations for 2006-2007; process agents 2006-2007 critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide; laboratory and analytical critical uses of methyl bromide; recapturing/recycling and destruction of methyl bromide from space fumigation; minimizing production of chlorofluorocarbons, as well as their use in metered-dose inhalers; laboratory and analytical uses of carbon tetrachloride; coordination between UNEP’s Ozone secretariat and the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat; preventing illegal trade in controlled ozone-depleting substances; the environmentally sound destruction of concentrated and diluted sources of ozone-depleting substances; the assistance of the Ozone secretariat’s Technological and Economic Assessment Panel for the meeting of experts on destruction of ozone-depleting substances, scheduled to take place in Montreal in February 2006; the 2005 report of the Assessment Panel and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled "Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System: Issues Related to Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons" and information provided by the parties to the Protocol; the 2006-2008 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the fixed-exchange-rate mechanism for the Fund’s replenishment; compliance issues; and administrative and budgetary matters.

**Convention on air pollution**

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution [YUN 1979, p. 710], which entered into force in 1983 [YUN 1983, p. 645], stood at 49 States and the EC. Eight protocols to the Convention dealt with the programme for monitoring and evaluation of the pollutants in Europe (1984), the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent (1985), the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes (1988), the control of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes (1991), further reduction of sulphur emissions (1984), heavy metals (1998), persistent organic pollutants (POPs) (1998) and the abatement of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone (1999).

The twenty-third session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 12-15 December) [ECE/EB.AIR/97 & Add.1] adopted decisions on emission data reporting under the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals, the 1998 Protocol on POPs and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone; the facilitation of participation of countries with economies in transition in the activities of the Executive Body; and compliance with reporting obligations.

**Convention on Biological Diversity**

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 638], which entered into force in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 210], stood at 187 States and the EC.

At year’s end, 129 States and the EC were parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 973] and entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1051]. During the year, 19 countries became parties.

The tenth (Bangkok, Thailand, 7-11 February) [UNEP/CBD/COP/8/2] and eleventh (Montreal, Canada, 28 November–2 December) [UNEP/CBD/COP/8/3] meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice adopted recommendations for consideration by the eighth (2006) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

**Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Montreal, Canada, 30 May-3 June) [UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/11] adopted rules of procedure for meetings of the Protocol’s Compliance Committee, established in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1054], and a multi-year programme of work for the Biosafety Clearing-House. It established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment. Other decisions dealt with capacity building; cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives; the implementation of article 8 of the Protocol on notification; article 18 on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms; the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress, established in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1054], and the report of its first meeting (Montreal, 25–27 May) [UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/11]; socio-economic considerations; public awareness of, and participation in the implementation of the Protocol; scientific and technical issues relat-
ing to the effective implementation of the Protocol, and administrative and budgetary matters.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 22 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/60/488/Add.8], adopted resolution 60/202 without vote [agenda item 52 (h)].

**Convention on Biological Diversity**


Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Taking note of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 20 and on 27 February, and from 23 to 27 February 2004, respectively,

Expressing its deep appreciation also to the Government of Brazil for its offer to host the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Curitiba from 20 to 31 March, and from 13 to 17 March 2006, respectively,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;
2. Notes the recent progress made with respect to the achievement of the three objectives set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3. Urges all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environmental Facility;
4. Reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as other biodiversity-related agreements and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and to continue to negotiate within the framework of the Convention, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources; and reiterates also the resolve of all States to fulfill commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;
5. Reaffirms the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;
6. Notes the holding of the tenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing and the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Traded Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing;
7. Notes also the progress made at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the continuing efforts made towards the implementation of the Protocol, and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in capacity-building for biosafety;
8. Invites the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention;
9. Invites the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so;
10. Invites countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
11. Encourages developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;
12. Urges parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;
13. Takes note of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations...
Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

14. Stress the importance of reducing duplicative reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions while respecting their independent legal status and their independent mandates;

15. Invites the States parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to provide the new Executive Secretary of the Convention with full support for the fulfilment of his mandate and towards promoting the implementation of the Convention;

16. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including its Cartagena Protocol;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Convention on Biological Diversity”.

Convention to combat desertification

As at 31 December, the total number of parties to the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 958], stood at 190 States and the EC.

The third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) (Bonn, Germany, 2-11 May) [ICCD/CRIC(3)/9] discussed thematic issues pertaining to the Convention implementation process in Africa and those under global review, and made recommendations relating to both of those issues and on the implementation of the Convention in Africa. At its fourth session (Nairobi, Kenya, 18-27 October), CRIC submitted further recommendations to the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (see below). The Committee on Science and Technology (Nairobi, 18-21 October), a Conference subsidiary body, also made a number of recommendations to the Conference.

The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Nairobi, 17-28 October) [ICCD/COP(7)/16 & Add.1] renewed the mandate of CRIC as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, up to and including the eighth (2007) session of the Conference, and established an ad hoc working group make proposals to improve the procedures for the communication of information, particularly at the national level, as well as the quality and format of reports on the implementation of the Convention. The Conference also adopted decisions on strengthening the implementation of the Convention in Africa; follow-up to the outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] relevant to UNCCD; adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes with regard to the Convention; mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention; collaboration between UNCCD and the Global Environment Facility (GEF); institutional arrangements for regional coordination units; the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies; the roster of independent experts; the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (see p. 1154); traditional knowledge; benchmarks and indicators; the development of early warning systems; the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands; procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation and arbitration and conciliation procedures; the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (2006) (see p. 1152), declared by the General Assembly in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1055]; relations between the UNCCD secretariat and the host country (Germany); and administrative and budgetary matters, including the 2006-2007 UNCCD programme and budget for the 2006-2007 biennium.

The Conference approved the continuation of the institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the UNCCD secretariat and the UN Secretariat for a further five years, to be reviewed by the General Assembly and the Conference no later than 31 December 2011. It decided to hold the eighth (2007) session of the Conference in Spain, and the fifth (2006) session of CRIC in Argentina. The Conference adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in which participants declared their commitment to reduce poverty significantly as a prerequisite for promoting sustainable development, review progress on the implementation of the Convention after 10 years and mainstream national action plans into national development policies, programmes, strategies and implementation modalities. Annexed to the report of the session was the Declaration of the sixth Round Table of Members of Parliament (Nairobi, 25-26 October) on the role of members of parliament in enhancing implementation of UNCCD obligations.

JIU report. An August note by the UNCCD secretariat [ICCD/COP(7)/4] contained a report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) reviewing the secretariat’s management, administration and activities. The report contained
recommendations for dealing with policy; governance; secretariat functions and activities; the relationship between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, a UNCCD subsidiary body dealing with financial issues; financial, budgetary, administrative and management issues; and coordination and cooperation with relevant international bodies and conventions. JIU also compared the secretariats of UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD, collectively referred to as the Rio Conventions. It concluded that, UNCCD was not provided with sufficient financial and human resources, as compared with the other two Conventions.

In a decision on follow-up to the JIU report, the seventh session of Conference of the Parties (see above) established an ad hoc, intergovernmental, intersessional working group to review the JIU report and develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of UNCCD by addressing, among other things, the recommendations contained in the report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/60/488/Add.7], adopted resolution 60/201 without vote [agenda item 32 (g)].

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 50/235 of 22 December 2004 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,
Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),
Recalling its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,
Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome, Reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,
Noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and encouraging affected country parties to include, as appropriate, in their national development strategies measures to combat desertification,
Stressing the need for further diversification of funding sources to address land degradation, in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,
Expressing its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005,
Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Spain to host the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in the autumn of 2007,
Welcoming also the offer made by the Government of Argentina to host the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in September 2006,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

2. Resolves to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

3. Notes with interest the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session on the outcomes of the third and fourth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

4. Invites the donor community to increase its support to the implementation of the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of land degradation and desertification, which will contribute to the improvement of the sustainable development of drylands and the global environment;

5. Welcomes the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session to conclude with the Council of the Global Environment Facility and to adopt the memorandum of understanding on enhanced collaboration between the Convention and the Facility;

6. Invites the Global Environment Facility to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

7. Also invites the Global Environment Facility to continue to make resources available for capacity-building activities in affected country parties implementing the Convention;

8. Takes note with interest of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty;

9. Calls upon Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

10. Stresses the importance of the implementation of all decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in particular the decisions taken at its seventh session on strengthening of the Committee on Science and Technology and on the follow-up to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, and supports the development of a ten-year strategy to foster the implementation of the Convention;

11. Notes steps taken by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session to introduce the euro as the...
budget and accounting currency as from the biennium 2008-2009;
12. **Recalls** the request of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session that the Executive Secretary notify parties of their contributions for 2006 by 21 November 2005 and for 2007 by 1 October 2006 to encourage early payment, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for 1999 and/or the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 to do so as soon as possible;
13. **Recognizes** the need to provide the secretariat of the Convention with stable, adequate and predictable resources in order to enable it to continue to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner, and endorses the recommendation in section A on budget reform in the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on the programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007, including the request that the Executive Secretary take additional measures necessary to address those recommendations, ensuring that the financial rules are fully respected in the future and report on this matter to the meeting of the Bureau and in the performance report for the biennium 2006-2007;
14. **Calls upon** Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;
15. **Takes note** of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;
16. **Approves** the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties no later than 31 December 2011, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session;
17. **Decides** to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2006-2007 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;
18. **Requests** the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the eighth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;
19. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”;
20. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

**International Year of Deserts and Desertification**

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/211 [YUN 2003, p. 1055], in which the Assembly declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/60/169] on the status of preparations for the observance of the International Year. The report provided information on the steps taken by the UNCCD Executive Secretary, the designated focal point for the Year, to implement resolution 58/211; described the objectives for the Year and the coordination and cooperation initiatives with institutional partners and parties to the Convention. The report contained also conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 22 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/60/488/Add.7], adopted resolution 60/200 by recorded vote (120-1-47) [agenda item 32 (g)].

**International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006**

The General Assembly,

**Recalling** its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

**Taking note** of the decision of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005, on the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006,

Deeply concerned by the exacerbation of desertification in all regions of the world, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on poverty eradication,

Deeply concerned also at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees,

Conscious of the need to raise public awareness and to protect the biological diversity of deserts as well as indigenous and local communities and the traditional knowledge of those affected by this phenomenon,

Welcoming the decision of the Government of Algeria to convene and host an international conference with the participation of Heads of State and Government, dedicated to the protection of deserts and to combating desertification, in October 2006,
Welcoming also the decision of the Government of Israel to host, in cooperation with other stakeholders, an international conference entitled “Deserts and Desertification: Challenges and Opportunities” in Be’er Sheva, Israel, in November 2006.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006.

1. Welcomes the nomination of United Nations honorary spokespersons for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, and encourages the Secretary-General to nominate additional personalities in that respect so as to promote a successful celebration of the Year worldwide;

2. Reiterates its call upon Member States and all relevant international organizations to support the activities related to desertification, including land degradation, to be organized by affected countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries;

3. Encourages countries to contribute, as they are able, to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and to undertake special initiatives in observance of the Year with the goal of enhancing the implementation of the Convention;

4. Invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Special Fund of the Convention in order to achieve the objectives of resolution 58/211 entitled “International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006”; 

5. Invites Governments and all relevant stakeholders that have not yet done so to inform the Secretariat for the Convention of activities envisaged for the observance of the Year;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Convention to make available to the parties to the Convention and to observers a consolidated list of all activities reported, including lessons learned and best practices, in order to coordinate information and avoid overlapping of activities;

7. Notes with interest the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to support, within its mandate, activities undertaken by affected developing countries parties to the Convention within the framework of the Year;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the celebration of the Year.

Environmental activities

Follow-up to the 2000 Millennium Summit

In January [UNEP/GC.23/10], the Executive Director submitted a background paper for the ministerial-level consultations held during the Governing Council’s twenty-third session (21–23 February) (see p. 1133) on implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49]. The paper contained information on poverty reduction and environmental stability; water, sanitation and human settlements; and gender and the environment.

2005 World Summit

The Secretary General, in a March report, entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all” [A/59/2005] (see p. 67), submitted to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (World Summit) in September (see p. 47), discussed the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, including the MDG on ensuring environmental sustainability. He said that national poverty reduction strategies had to include investments in improved environmental management and make the structural changes required for environmental sustainability. In addition, regional and global efforts for environmental priorities, including shared waterways, forests, marine fisheries and biodiversity, had to be strengthened. The risk of harmful radiation appeared to be receding under the 1987 Montreal Protocol [YUN 1987, p. 686] to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804]. The international community had to support and implement the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa [YUN 1994, p. 944]. Governments should take steps to implement the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 698], and the commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation [YUN 2002, p. 822] of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [ibid. p. 821] to re-
duce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol [YUN 1997, p. 1018] to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [YUN 1992, p. 668] came into force in February (see p. 1146), but was extended only until 2012; a more inclusive framework had to be developed beyond 2012, with broader participation by all major emitters of both developed and developing countries, to mitigate climate change, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 60/1 of 16 September (see p. 48), included measures for the management and protection of the environment in the context of sustainable development.

**Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), a four-year international assessment launched in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 96] to evaluate the state of major ecosystems and their links with human well-being, was completed in 2005. The specific objectives of the MA were to identify priorities for action; provide tools for planning and management; provide foresight concerning the consequences of decisions affecting ecosystems; identify response options for achieving human development and sustainability; and help build individual and institutional capacity to undertake integrated ecosystem assessments and act on their findings. Two MA reports were released in 2005: *Living Beyond Our Means: Natural Assets and Human Well-being*, a statement by the MA Board containing 10 key messages and conclusions drawn from the Assessment; and *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*, a summary for decision-makers of the main MA synthesis report. Other synthesis reports issued dealt with biodiversity, desertification, opportunities and challenges for business and industry, wetlands and water, and health. The MA found that 60 per cent of the world’s ecosystems were in decline or degraded to an extent that societies could no longer rely on them for climate regulation, clean air and water, fertile land and productive fisheries.

**The atmosphere**

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

The twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-8 April), accepted the actions of the second joint session of IPCC Working Groups I and III held on the same dates. At its twenty-fourth session (Montreal, Canada, 26-28 September), IPCC discussed progress on its Fourth Assessment Synthesis Report, which was to be adopted and approved by IPCC in 2007; its National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme; further work on emissions scenarios; outreach; and administrative matters. It adopted the revised programme budget for 2006.

**Terrestrial ecosystems**

In 2005, UNEP launched An Ecosystem Approach to Restoring West African Drylands and Improving Rural Livelihoods through Agroforestry-based Land Management Interventions, a project to help build the scientific and technical capacity of some of the world’s poorest dryland countries, including in the semi-arid lands of the West Africa subregion. In response to requests from Governments in northeast Asia, UNEP, the Asian Development Bank, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UNCCD developed a project on the prevention and control of dust and sandstorms, funded by GEF and the Asian Development Bank. The project included the establishment of a UNEP-led regional monitoring and early-warning network and an investment strategy to strengthen mitigation measures to address the root causes of dust and sandstorms.

**Deforestation and forest degradation**

**United Nations Forum on Forests**

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), at its fifth session (New York, 16-17 May) [E/2005/42], adopted two decisions that were brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. It decided to accredit two intergovernmental organizations: the Montreal Protocol and the secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization [dec. 5/1]. In a decision on the review process of the fifth UNFF session [dec. 5/2], the Forum decided to complete consideration at its sixth (2006) meeting of items outlined in its multi-year programme of work, based on a draft text annexed to the decision. UNFF recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Council on the report of its fifth session and the provisional agenda for its sixth session (see below).

The Forum had before it reports of the Secretary-General on a review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests [E/CN.18/2005/6]; linkages between forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51];E/CN.18/2005/7]; and a review of progress and consideration of future UNFF actions [E/CN.18/2005/8]. Notes by the Secretary-General discussed the high-level
ministerial segment of UNFF fifth session [E/CN.18/2005/4] and the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests [E/CN.18/2005/9]. Secretariat notes provided information on the Forum’s fifth multi-stakeholder dialogue [E/CN.18/2005/3 & Add.1-8]; enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination [E/CN.18/2005/5]; and accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to UNFF [E/CN.18/2005/17]. A further secretariat note transmitted the statement from the Ministerial Meeting on Forests, convened by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Rome, 14 March) [E/CN.18/2005/11]. The Forum considered reports of the workshop co-organized by Indonesia and Switzerland on decentralization, federal systems in forestry and national forest programmes, known as the Interlaken Workshop (Interlaken, Switzerland, 27-30 April 2004) [E/CN.18/2005/10], as well as reports on country-led initiatives in support of UNFF in forest landscape restoration implementation (Petrópolis, Brazil, 4-8 April 2005), submitted by Brazil and the United Kingdom [E/CN.18/2005/15]; innovative financial mechanisms: searching for viable alternatives to secure the basis for the financial sustainability of forests (San José, Costa Rica, 29 March–1 April), submitted by Costa Rica [E/CN.18/2005/13]; and the future of the International Arrangement on Forests (Guadalajara, Mexico, 25-28 January), submitted by Mexico and the United States [E/CN.18/2005/11]. Also before the Forum were the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2005 [E/CN.18/ 2005/INF/1]; an 11 April letter from the United Kingdom transmitting the report of the meeting of the Forests Dialogue on “Practical actions to combat illegal logging” (Hong Kong, China, 7-10 March) [E/CN.18/2005/12]; and the organizational initiative report, submitted by Costa Rica on 20 April [E/CN.18/2005/16], on the Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments (San José, Costa Rica, 6-10 December 2004).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 July [meeting 36], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests [E/2005/42], adopted resolution 2005/29 without vote [agenda item 13 (4)].

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session and provisional agenda for its sixth session

The Economic and Social Council, Recalling its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000,

1. Takes note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session;
2. Acknowledges in particular the need to consider forest issues for the preparation of the input of the Economic and Social Council to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly;
3. Notes that the United Nations Forum on Forests will continue its examination of its methods of work, as per General Assembly resolution 57/270B of 23 June 2003, through the implementation of decision 5/2, adopted by the Forum at its fifth session;
4. Decides to hold the sixth session of the Forum from 13 to 24 February 2006 in New York;
5. Also decides that the Forum, at its sixth session, should consider the venue and dates of its seventh session;
6. Further decides that the Forum, at its sixth session, should ensure the opportunity to receive and consider inputs from representatives of major groups as identified in Agenda 21, and in this regard that the Bureau should provide the opportunity for the major groups, as a priority, to hold side events during the sixth session of the Forum, to permit them to present their points of view on the issues to be addressed during the session;
7. Approves the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Forum as set out below:

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
4. Date and venue for the seventh session of the Forum.
5. Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Forum.
6. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixth session.
7. Calls upon interested donors to make voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund of the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to facilitate, in particular, travel of representatives from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, taking into account General Assembly decision 58/354 of 23 December 2003.

Sustainable mountain development

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/216 [YUN 2003, p. 1065], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/60/309] describing the status of sustainable mountain development at the national, regional and international levels. The report also discussed communications and networking on mountain issues; the activities of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, launched as an outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821]; education and research activities; and resource
mobilization and funding mechanisms for sustainable mountain development. The report stated that, despite increased awareness and positive achievements, key challenges to sustainable development and poverty alleviation in mountains remained, including a growing demand for water and other natural resources; the consequences of global climate change; tourism growth; increasing rates of outmigration; conflicts; and the pressures of industry, mining and agriculture. Higher levels of funding and investment in mountain areas, better coordinated cooperation and a stronger enabling environment with more supportive laws, policies and institutions were also required. The report contained recommendations for the Assembly to promote and sustain development in mountain regions within the existing policy context, including chapter 13 of Agenda 21 [YUN 1992, p. 672] on sustainable mountain development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821] and the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 31].


GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/60/488/Add.5], adopted resolution 60/198 without vote [agenda item 52 (e)].

Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002 and 58/216 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling further its resolution 59/238 of 22 December 2004 on rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas,

Recognizing chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions, Noting the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (“Mountain Partnership”), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of forty-four countries, fourteen intergovernmental organizations and sixty-eight organizations from major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions, Noting also the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held at Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Sustainable mountain development”;

2. Notes with appreciation that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, as well as the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth’s freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage;

3. Notes with concern that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems, and that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest of a given country;

4. Notes that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of deforestation, deforestation and other forms of watershed degradation, the occurrence of natural disasters, as well as increasing outmigration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining, agriculture and the consequences of global climate change are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountains, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

5. Expresses its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries;

6. Underlines the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

7. Encourages the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national level to enhance
intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

8. Also encourages increased involvement of relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

9. Underlines the need for improved access to resources for women in mountain regions as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

10. Stresses that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

11. Recognizes that many developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other forms of collaborative approaches;

12. Notes that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high level of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship facing mountain communities;

13. Invites Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions;

14. Underlines the importance for sustainable development in mountains of exploring a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, and support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small and medium-sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

15. Underlines also the importance of enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

16. Notes with satisfaction the recent adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity, the overall purpose of which is the significant reduction of the loss of mountain biological diversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels, and its implementation, which aims at making a significant contribution to poverty eradication in mountain regions;

17. Recognizes that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches, where the States concerned agree, to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

18. Notes with appreciation in this context the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, which promotes constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, population and culture, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, and welcomes the recent membership of the Convention in the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions;

19. Also notes with appreciation the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

20. Stresses the importance of capacity-building, institutional strengthening and educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of good practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and of the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

21. Encourages the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change created by the International Year of Mountains and the opportunity provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December;

22. Also encourages Member States to collect and produce information and to establish databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research, programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

23. Further encourages all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of relevant chapters of Agenda 21, including chapter 13 and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

24. Recognizes the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, in-
vites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider joining the Mountain Partnership, and invites the Partnership Secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the fourteenth meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006, including in regard to the thematic cluster issues of energy, climate change, air pollution and atmosphere and industrial development;

25. Notes with appreciation in this context the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

26. Takes note of the conclusions of the second global meeting of the members of the Mountain Partnership, held in Cusco, Peru, on 28 and 29 October 2004, at the invitation of the Government of Peru;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, under a sub-item entitled “Sustainable mountain development” of the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

Marine ecosystems

Oceans and seas

The sixth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process in Oceans and Law of the Sea (New York, 6-10 June) [A/60/99] (see p. 1436) discussed fisheries and their contribution to sustainable development and marine debris. Among the reports considered by the meeting, was an April overview report submitted by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme [A/AC.259/11], which described the issue of marine litter and UNEP’s activities to address the problem. The meeting proposed actions to be taken by the General Assembly to address the issues of fisheries and marine debris. With regard to cooperation and coordination, the meeting proposed that the Assembly welcome the work of the secretariats of UN system agencies, programmes and funds, as well as those of international conventions, to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues. It also proposed that the Assembly encourage States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as UN system specialized agencies and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus and the best way to address ocean issues.

The Assembly took action with regard to the Consultative Process and coordination and cooperation issues in parts XIII and XIV, respectively, of resolution 60/30 (see p. 1443).

Report of Executive Director. In response to decisions adopted by the Governing Council in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1041 & pp. 1065-68], the Executive Director submitted a February progress report [UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.2] on UNEP’s water-related activities, including implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; the Regional Seas Programme; coral reefs; and activities related to marine safety and the protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution (see relevant sections below).

Global waters assessment

The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), inaugurated in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 982] to assess international waters and causes of environmental problems in 66 water regions, focusing on the aquatic environment in transboundary waters, was concluded in 2005. In all, 14 reports were printed, 15 others were published on the Internet, and a further 11 were awaiting publication, including the project’s final report. GIWA outputs were used by some new GEF projects, including the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Pan African Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training secretariat projects. The Assessment also provided input to intergovernmental processes, including the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States [YUN 1994, p. 785].

International Workshop. In June [A/60/91], the Secretary-General submitted a report on the results of the second international workshop convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/24 [YUN 2004, p. 1333] on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, known as the Global Marine Assessment (GMA), including the socio-economic aspects (New York, 13-15 June). The workshop considered the start-up phase, known as the “assessment of assessments” as a preparatory stage towards the establishment of the regular process of assessments. Before it was an 8 June note from Iceland [A/AC.271/1] to the Secretary General, indicating its intention not to participate in the second international workshop due to its concern over the mixing of scientific and management issues. In its conclusions, which were recommended to the Assembly for consideration, the workshop described the...
features and aims of, and organizational arrangements for, the “assessment of assessments”.

The Assembly, in section XI of resolution 60/30 (see p. 1442), endorsed the workshop’s conclusions and decided to launch the “assessment of assessments”, to be completed in two years. It established the Ad Hoc Steering Group to oversee the execution of the “assessment of assessments”. The Assembly invited UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to jointly undertake the role of lead agencies, under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Steering Group, and determined the actions to be undertaken by the Group, including the establishment of a group of experts to assess the assessments and report to the Assembly. It decided that the execution of the “assessment of assessments”, including the activities of the Ad Hoc Steering Group and the group of experts, would be financed through voluntary contributions and other resources available to participating organizations and bodies, and invited Member States in a position to do so to make contributions.

Global Programme of Action

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/10] contained information on the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Key principles, directed mainly towards Governments, industrial/business associations and UN and intergovernmental bodies to provide guidance for the sustainable development and management of four economic sectors (aquaculture, ports and harbours, tourism and mining), were developed and adopted. The 12 Guiding Principles for Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management were finalized and published. UNEP was cooperating closely with China and other Governments, intergovernmental bodies, UN institutions and other stakeholders in preparing for the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of GPA, scheduled to take place in Beijing, China, from 16 to 22 October 2006; a joint UN-Oceans/UN-Water task force was set up to provide guidance on the preparatory work for the Meeting. UNEP/GPA provided substantive support to Governments to develop national programmes of action (NPAs) for GPA implementation, including advice and assistance on GPA programme components and cross cutting issues. As a result of that support, over 40 countries were in the process of, or had finalized their NPAs. In May 2005, UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

In section IX of resolution 60/30 of 29 November (see p. 1441), the General Assembly called on States to advance the implementation of GPA and the 2001 Montreal Declaration on the implementation of GPA [YUN 2001, p. 965].

Coral reefs

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/10] provided information on UNEP’s coral reef activities. Through its Coral Reef Unit (CRU) and UNEP-facilitated conventions, UNEP continued to support the implementation of coral reef activities by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the International Coral Reef Network (ICRAN) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. During the International Meeting to Review the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States [YUN 1994, p. 783], (Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January) (see p. 946), CRU supported a side event entitled “Islands, Reefs and Communities: Committing to the Future”, which highlighted the essential role of marine and coastal protected areas in human well-being and poverty alleviation. Palau and ICRI hosted another event “Benefits and Costs of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas for Islands”, in June. UNEP, in partnership with ICRAN, implemented the ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance Project to address coral reef threats in relation to watershed management, sustainable fishing and sustainable tourism in the Mesoamerican subregion (Central America and nine south-eastern states of Mexico). In cooperation with the ICRAN Coordinating Unit, CRU expanded ICRAN activities to the Arabian Sea and was projecting the impact of climate change on coral reefs and the goods and services derived from them. CRU also secured $845,000 from the European Commission for capacity-building activities on coral reefs and marine protected areas in South Asia.

Regional Seas Programme

A December note by the Executive Director [UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/10] provided information on the activities of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Under the Global Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2004-2007, agreed to at the Sixth (2004) Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans [YUN 2004, p. 1060], a database providing an overview of all major actors and players in the conservation and management of marine and coastal environment of the various regional seas programmes was developed. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean Action Plan, developed with the assistance of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, was...
adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the 1995 Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, and its Protocols (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November) [UNEP/DEPI/MED.IG.16/15]. The Regional Seas Programme provided advice and guidance for translating regional seas conventions and protocols into national legislation in the Mediterranean, East Asia, Northwest Pacific and Caribbean regions. It conducted a training workshop on compliance and enforcement for regional seas conventions and related conventions in the wider Caribbean and Pacific regions. The Seventh Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Helsinki, Finland, 18-20 October) [UNEP/DEC/RS.7] focused on strengthening the financial components of the regional seas programmes. In March, UNEP and the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission signed an MOU which provided a framework for collaboration between the Global Ocean Observing System and the Regional Seas Programme. The seventh meeting of the Contracting Parties (Libreville, Gabon, 22-23 March) [UNEP/DEC/WAF/CF.7/8] to the 1981 Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Regions [YUN 1998, p. 840] developed project proposals to coordinate with the New Partnership for Africa's Development Environmental Action Plan, strengthened linkages with large marine ecosystem programmes and supported small island developing States’ projects. Under the South-east Pacific Action Plan, adopted in 1981 [ibid., p. 833], a workshop was held on GPA development and implementation at the regional and national levels (Chile, January). The Regional Seas Programme also worked to promote synergies and coordinated regional implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives to develop and promote ecosystems-based marine and coastal management, and enhance its visibility.

In 2005, seven Regional Seas Programme national action plans were adopted by Governments for integration into sustainable development planning, and goals and targets developed for a regional strategic action plan.

Conservation of wildlife

In September, the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) held the First Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the Great Apes Survival Project and the first GRASP Council Meeting (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 5-9 September). The Intergovernmental Meeting adopted the Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes to secure the long-term survival for all great ape species and their habitat. The GRASP Council adopted the Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat. UNEP’s World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation was launched during the meetings.

Protection against harmful products and waste

Chemical safety


The Chemical Review Committee, established by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention as a subsidiary body in 2004 [ibid., p. 1064], held its first session (Rome, 26-30 September) [UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14/Add.1]; confirmed the appointment of members of the Chemical Review Committee; adopted a work plan for regional and national delivery of technical assistance for 2006 and a process for the preparation of guidance documents; approved arrangements by the UNEP Executive Director and the FAO Director-General for the performance of Convention secretariat functions, to be concluded on the basis of a proposed MOU [UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/14/Add.1]; and amended the financial and budgetary arrangements for the 2005-2006 biennium. The Convention secretariat was asked to contribute to a study on cooperation and synergies with the secretariats of the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420] and the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants [YUN 2001, p. 971].

The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Non-Compliance held its first session (Rome, 26-27 September) [UNEP/FAO/RC/OEWG.1/5].
International chemicals management

In February, the UNEP Governing Council, having considered the Executive Director's 2004 report on chemicals management [YUN 2004, p. 1064], adopted a multi-part decision on that issue [dec. 23/9 I]. In the part dealing with cooperation between UNEP, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations [dec. 23/9 II], the Council requested the Executive Director to strengthen support for the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420], the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [YUN 1998, p. 997] and the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants [YUN 2001, p. 971], and to promote full cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of those Conventions and the UNEP Chemicals Branch. He was also asked to: promote cooperation between the secretariats of the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer [YUN 1987, p. 686], the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the UNEP Chemicals Branch, and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and wastes; promote cooperation with the Basel Convention regional training centres in the implementation of activities of related multilateral environmental agreements and institutions; and report to the Council in 2007.

In the part of the decision dealing with the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM) [dec. 23/9 II], the Council requested Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to contribute the further development of SAICM. The Executive Director was asked to provide funding towards that end and to report to the Governing Council in 2006 on the outcomes of that process of development. He should make preparations for a third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM, to be held in Vienna in September (see below), and, in cooperation with the other co-conveners, for the International Conference on Chemicals Management, scheduled to take place in conjunction with the ninth (2006) special session of the Governing Council. He was asked, as a matter of high priority, to provide for the implementation of UNEP's responsibilities under SAICM, once adopted, and to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the strategic approach, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (see p. 1135), and to report in 2007.

Preparatory Committee meeting. The third and final session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of SAICM (Vienna, 19-24 September) [SAICM/PRÉPCOM.3/3] considered the SAICM global programme of action, its overarching policy strategy and a high-level declaration, which together were to form the tripartite structure for SAICM, as agreed by the Committee in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1064]. Draft texts of those three SAICM elements were annexed to the Committee’s report and were to be forwarded to the 2006 International Conference on Chemicals Management for consideration.

In October [UNEP/GCSS.IX/6], the Executive Director reported that the third session of the Preparatory Committee agreed provisionally that he should be requested to perform secretariat functions for SAICM during its implementation phase. A number of issues remained to be resolved and various elements of the SAICM documents to be finalized, including sections of the policy strategy dealing with financial considerations and principles and approaches. The Committee President convened a meeting of an expanded bureau (Jongny, Switzerland, 4-5 November) to consider possible avenues for consensus, make final preparations for the International Conference on Chemicals Management and finalize and adopt SAICM and refer it to the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations, including GC/GMEF, for consideration.

Lead and cadmium

On 25 February [dec. 23/9 III], the Governing Council reaffirmed its 2003 decision on lead [YUN 2003, p. 1071] and requested the Executive Director to review available scientific information, focusing on long-range environmental transport, in order to inform future discussions on the need for global action in relation to lead and cadmium. Governments and other stakeholders were asked to increase contributions to facilitate the timely implementation of the decision, and the Executive Director was asked to report to the Council in 2007.

On 27 December, UNEP announced that vehicle fuels in sub-Saharan Africa would be lead-free as at 1 January 2006, meeting the phase-out date set by African Governments and their partners, including UNEP, in 2001.

Mercury

On 25 February [dec. 23/9 IV], the Governing Council reiterated the conclusion of the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment [YUN 2002, p. 1064] that
there was sufficient evidence of significant global adverse impacts from mercury and its compounds to warrant further international action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds into the environment, and the Council’s 2003 decision [YUN 2003, p. 1071] regarding the initiation of national, regional and global actions to reduce or eliminate such releases. It continued to urge all countries to adopt goals and to take national action to identify exposed populations and ecosystems and reduce anthropogenic mercury releases that affected human health and the environment. The Council requested the Executive Director to develop further the UNEP mercury programme and to prepare and publicize a report summarizing supply, trade and demand information for mercury, including in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. He should propose possible further actions in those areas for the Council’s consideration in 2007, with the aim of facilitating and conducting technical assistance and capacity-building activities to support the efforts of countries in taking action regarding mercury pollution.

Governments were encouraged to promote and improve evaluation and communication methods, based on, among other things, guidance from WHO and FAO. Governments, the private sector and international organizations should take immediate action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment posed on a global scale by mercury in products and production processes. Governments in a position to do so should assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition through technology transfer, capacity-building and access to financial resources to achieve the goals of the Council’s 2003 decision on mercury [ibid.], and with intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector develop and implement partnerships to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment, with a view to achieving those goals. The Executive Director was asked to invite Governments, particularly of countries in transition, to identify, in consultation with stakeholders, a set of pilot partnerships by 1 September. He should also compile and report on needs identified to execute the partnerships and assist in mobilizing resources to support them; share and disseminate information submitted by partnerships on progress, lessons learned and emerging best practices and report on the results of those partnerships; report on the partnership programme at the third (2005) session of the SAICM Preparatory Committee (see p. 1161) and the 2006 International Conference on Chemicals Management and on partnership implementation, in 2007. The Council indicated a number of elements to be identified in each partnership and encouraged Governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the private sector to form a partnership to assist the Executive Director in resources mobilization. The Executive Director was asked to facilitate work between the UNEP mercury programme and Governments, other international organizations, NGOs, the private sector and the partnerships to: improve global understanding of international mercury emission sources, fate and transport; promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and releases and environmentally sound disposal and remediation practices; and increase awareness of environmentally sound recycling practices. Governments and stakeholders, especially in developed countries, and relevant international organizations, were encouraged to mobilize technical and financial resources to support partnerships.

The Council requested the Executive Director to report in 2007 on progress in implementing its decision and decided to assess, on the basis of the progress report, the need for further action on mercury, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions.

Persistent organic pollutants

As at 31 December, 114 States and the EC were parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) [YUN 2001, p. 971], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 2066].

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 2-6 May) [UNEP/POPS/COP1/3] accepted Switzerland’s offer to host the Convention secretariat in Geneva and approved the operational budget of $5,366,136 for 2006 and an indicative operational budget of $4,213,264 for 2007. It adopted its rules of procedure; an arbitration procedure for the settlement of disputes among parties; and financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat. The Conference also adopted a memorandum of understanding between itself and Council of the Global Environment Facility; the guidance for assisting countries in preparing national implementation plans [UNEP/POPS/COP1/INF/15 & Add.1]; guidance on technical assistance; the review process for entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions; the revised format for reporting under article 15 of
the Convention; and formats for the Register of Specific Exemptions and the register for the synthetic pesticide dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT). It established the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee as a subsidiary body and the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices. Other decisions dealt with evaluation; non-compliance; technical assistance provided to regional and subregional centres; enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster; best available techniques and best environmental practices; technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of POPs waste; and financial and administrative matters.

The first meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (Geneva, 7-11 November) [UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/10] adopted decisions on provisional confidentiality arrangements; a process for inviting experts to participate in Committee meetings; and the chemicals pentabromodiphenyl ether, chlordane, hexabromobiphenyl, lindane, and perfluorooctane sulfonate.

**Hazardous wastes**

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420], which entered into force in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 685], rose to 166. The 1995 amendment to the Convention [YUN 1995, p. 1333], not yet in force, had been ratified, accepted or approved by 61 parties. During the year, the number of parties to the 1999 Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1999, p. 988] rose to seven.

The first meeting (Geneva, 12-22 June) [UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/7/1/11] of the Expanded Bureau of the seventh (2004) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention discussed the Convention’s partnership programme and resource mobilization strategy, the outcome of the first (2005) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on POPs (see p. 1162), and financial and administrative matters.

The fourth session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Convention (Geneva, 4-8 July) [UNEP/CHW/OEWG/4/18] agreed to the prioritization of its 2005-2006 work programme and approved, with amendments, the instruction manual for the implementation of the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation contained in a secretariat note [UNEP/CHW/OEWG/4/8]. Other decisions dealt with: the Basel Convention Partnership Programme; the Mobile Phone Partner-
In the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency, and, with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Union of Geological Sciences and other Earth science societies and groups through-out the world, and, in this regard agrees that the activities of the International Year of Planet Earth will be funded from voluntary contributions, including, inter alia, from industry and major foundations mobilized by a consortium of international organizations, led by the International Union of Geological Sciences;

3. Encourages all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of Earth sciences for the achievement of sustainable development and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the progress of the preparations for the International Year of Planet Earth.

Human settlements

Follow-up to the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the 2001 General Assembly special session

Report of Secretary-General. In July [A/60/168], the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 59/239 (YUN 2004, p. 1070), reported on follow-up to the Assembly’s twenty-fifth (2001) special session (YUN 2004, p. 1075) to review and appraise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (YUN 1996, p. 994), adopted by the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) [ibid., p. 992], and on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). During the reporting period, UN-Habitat made significant progress in strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. General purpose funds from Governments rose from $8.3 million in 2003 to $10.5 million in 2004, while earmarked contributions rose from $17.2 million to $22.2 million. The twentieth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council (see p. 1168) noted the imbalance between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions and called upon Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to increase their funding to the Foundation and to give priority to non-earmarked, multi-year funding. UN-Habitat launched its newest subprogramme, the Human Settlements Financing Division, providing the Foundation with an operational platform for mobilizing resources at the country level. It also launched the Slum Upgrading Facility, a three-year pilot project. UN-Habitat expanded its efforts at the country level to build the capacity of States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51], especially the targets on slums. It expanded its technical assistance to over 80 States,
and responded to demands for disaster mitigation and post-conflict humanitarian assistance and reconstruction. UN-Habitat placed national Habitat Programme Managers in 32 countries. The Programme adjusted its monitoring and research activities to support member States in monitoring implementation of the MDGs and in analysing policies and practices to help them achieve those targets, including documenting and disseminating best practices and undertaking seminal research on urban economic conditions, rural-urban linkages and effective strategies for improving urban self-employment and livelihood for the urban poor.

UN-Habitat created forums for global networking and established several strategic partnerships. It agreed to establish with the World Bank a cooperation agreement to provide greater coherence to urban development interventions at the country level, with an emphasis on promoting housing finance and placing urban development more squarely in the national development agenda. It signed agreements with the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank for joint projects and programmes in the areas of water, sanitation, housing and urban development, focusing on the living conditions of the urban poor. UN-Habitat also participated in regional ministerial meetings on housing and land and urban development in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It convened, with the African Union, the inaugural session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (Durban, South Africa, 31 January–4 February), which agreed to establish an enhanced implementation framework for promoting sustainable cities and towns in Africa. The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance were launched in over 10 countries, within the framework of the MDG targets and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (YUN 2002, p. 821), with follow-up activities directed towards building local capacities. The Inter-agency Advisory Group on Forced Evictions, an international task force to facilitate negotiated policy alternatives to unlawful eviction, was established, and progress made in implementing the Water for African Cities and Water for Asian Cities programmes.

The Secretary-General noted that the crisis of rapid urbanization and the unique opportunity presented by slum upgrading for the attainment of the MDGs called for Governments to adopt pro-poor, urban policies and action plans. He encouraged Governments to strengthen UN-Habitat and the Human Settlements Foundation by providing non earmarked, predictable funding and regular budget resources for core programme activities; and to contribute to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and other technical cooperation trust funds.

**Commission on Sustainable Development consideration.** The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its thirteenth session (New York, 11–22 April) (E/2005/29) (see p. 920), considered policy options in the thematic areas of water, sanitation and human settlements. The Commission’s intergovernmental preparatory meeting (E/CN.17/2005/6) discussed aspects of an integrated approach to land use, housing development, the delivery of water and sanitation services, transportation infrastructure, education and healthcare facilities and employment. It addressed the goals of providing improved housing and associated services to the urban poor; creating jobs and promoting enterprises; and developing finance institutions and financial products suitable to the needs of the urban poor. The Commission also considered the interlinkages among water, sanitation and human settlements.

The Commission had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on human settlements: policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation (E/CN.17/2005/4), and major groups’ priorities for action in water, sanitation and human settlements (E/CN.17/2005/5). The report on policy options discussed aspects of housing, tenure security and urban land management, including those relating to the urban poor, and considered the challenge of devising strategies and policies for increasing the productivity of urban areas, while supporting economic growth that benefitted the poor. Stating that such strategies needed to recognize the contribution of the informal sector to economic development and employment, the report also discussed issues relating to the development of a policy environment supportive of employment and enterprise. With respect to mobilizing the estimated $70 to $100 billion needed to achieve the MDG goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, the Secretary-General considered several options, including promoting community-based approaches to financing, promoting and scaling-up microfinancing schemes and developing market-based instruments and institutions. The report considered the participation of Governments, local authorities, UN agencies and other relevant actors in the development of a framework for action on the issue.

On 22 April (E/2005/29 (res. 13/1)), the Commission adopted a resolution on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation...
in water, sanitation and human settlements. The resolution called upon Governments and the UN system, international financial institutions and other international organizations to provide an enabling policy and regulatory environment and to mobilize the requisite means of implementation for the promotion of sustainable human settlements development in both urban and rural areas, in accordance with national priorities. It supported integrated planning and management, among other activities, to prevent new slum dwellings and assist in providing access for the poor in urban and rural areas to descent and affordable housing and basic services, taking into account employment and enterprise promotion and other interlinkages and cross-cutting issues. The Commission requested UN-Habitat to facilitate effective global monitoring of progress in the implementation of human settlements goals and targets, as well as measures agreed at the current session of the Commission regarding human settlements. It also called upon member States to strengthen the UN-Habitat capacities to provide increased assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through the pilot phase of the Slum Upgrading Facility.

**Coordinated implementation of Habitat Agenda**

In May [E/2005/60], in accordance with a 2004 Economic and Social Council request [YUN 2004, p. 1070], the Secretary-General reported on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular the work of UN-Habitat with regard to its four subprogrammes: shelter and sustainable human settlements development; monitoring of the Habitat Agenda; regional and technical cooperation; and human settlements financing. It also considered the UN-Habitat’s cooperation and collaboration with its partners, including the World Bank and regional financial institutions and described innovations in its work, including on the debt-for-land swap programme between Kenya and Finland, the Slum Upgrading Facility, the launch of the UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, and the implementation of an enabling strategy for civil society within cities. The report also reviewed UN-Habitat’s financial, human resource and information management.

The Secretary-General encouraged Governments to include human settlements in their national development plans and to promote city and metropolitan planning in their poverty reduction strategies and their UN development assistance frameworks; assess conditions and trends in their urban slums and create a pro-poor policy environment that placed the highest priority on improving the living environment of slum dwellers; participate and support the participation of Habitat partners from developing countries in the third session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Vancouver, Canada in 2006; and increase the non-earmarked component of their contributions.

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council, by decision 2005/298, took note of the Secretary-General’s report and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixtieth (2005) session. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a further report for consideration by the Council in 2006.

In accordance with the Council’s decision, the Secretary-General, by a September note [A/60/347], transmitted his May report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda to the Assembly.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 22 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/60/489], adopted resolution 60/203 without vote [agenda item 53].

**Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

The General Assembly,


Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session related to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and human settlements,

Recognizing that the overall thrust and strategic vision of UN-Habitat and its emphasis on the two
global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

Acknowledging the unique opportunity provided by the Cities Without Slums Initiative mentioned in the Millennium Declaration for realizing economies of scale and substantial multiplier effects in helping to attain the other Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing its appreciation to the regular Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean and its recent plan of action on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing its appreciation also to the African Union, UN-Habitat and the Government of South Africa for convening and hosting the first African conference of housing and urban development ministers in Durban from 31 January to 4 February 2005, which established the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development to promote sustainable human settlements in Africa,

Expressing its appreciation further to the Government of Canada and the city of Vancouver for their willingness to host the third session of the World Urban Forum in June 2006 and to the Government of China and the city of Nanjing for their willingness to host the fourth session of the World Urban Forum in 2008,


Noting the efforts by UN-Habitat to strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other international organizations and its participation in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs,

Recognizing the urgent need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, and the relevant decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session,

I. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its nineteenth session, the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

2. Encourages Governments to consider an enhanced approach to achieving the Cities Without Slums Initiative mentioned in the United Nations Millennium Declaration by upgrading existing slums and creating policies and programmes, according to national circumstances, to forestall the growth of future slums, and in this regard invites the international donor community and multilateral and regional development banks to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through increased voluntary financial assistance;

3. Recognizes that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the Millennium Declaration, and stresses the need for the international community to fully implement commitments to support Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of the requisite resources, capacity-building, the transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;

4. Calls for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invites Governments to provide multi-year funding to support programme implementation;

5. Also calls for increased, non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

7. Emphasizes the need for UN-Habitat to develop a results-based and less fragmented budget structure with a view to securing maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency in programme delivery regardless of funding source;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

9. Invites the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries to mobilize public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

10. Acknowledges contributions of the regional consultative initiatives, including conferences of ministers in the area of human settlements, for implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

II. Stresses the importance of publishing the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in time for their adoption no later than the end of 2005;
12. Requests UN-Habitat to intensify coordination in the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment and to continue to work with the World Bank, regional development banks, other development banks, regional organizations and other relevant partners to field-test innovative policies, practices and pilot projects in order to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other poor human settlements development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

13. Invites all Governments to participate actively in the third session of the World Urban Forum, and invites donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, including women and youth, in the Forum;

14. Encourages Governments to establish local, national and regional urban observatories and to provide financial and substantive support to UN-Habitat for the further development of methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination;

15. Recognizes the important role and contribution of UN-Habitat in supporting the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development, and in this regard requests UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue to work closely with other relevant agencies in the United Nations system, and invites the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to consider including UN-Habitat in its membership;

16. Requests UN-Habitat, through its involvement in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and through contacts with relevant United Nations agencies and partners in the field, to promote the early involvement of human settlements experts in the assessment and development of prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to support the efforts of developing countries affected by natural disasters and other complex humanitarian emergencies;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”.

UN Human Settlements Programme

Governing Council

In 2005, the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) held its twentieth session (Nairobi, 4-8 April) [A/60/8]. The Council adopted 21 resolutions and one decision regarding various aspects of UN-Habitat’s work and future sessions of the Governing Council. In a resolution on housing as a component to an adequate standard of living for vulnerable or disadvantaged persons [res. 20/15], the Council requested the Executive Director to integrate the protection of such persons into all UN-Habitat activities, develop and strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the impact of human settlement policies and programmes on the lives and work of disadvantaged persons in cities, and report in 2007. Welcoming progress made in the work of UN-Habitat Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme [res. 20/6], the Council encouraged the Executive Director to make resources available in support of best practices, good urban practices and enabling legislation, and to report in 2007.

The Council took note of a draft strategy for enhancing the engagement of youth in UN-Habitat’s work [HSP/GC/20/2/Add.5], and requested the Executive Director to finalize the Youth Strategy for Enhanced Engagement and to develop an action plan for its implementation, including an internal evaluation which would take into consideration input from youth organizations (res. 20/1). The Executive Director was also asked to strengthen and mainstream UN-Habitat’s work on the engagement of young people in human settlements development and in addressing the problems of young people at risk, especially girls and young women; study the effects of social and economic conditions related to urbanization on the intergenerational transfer of values conducive to good citizenship and how national and local governments could assist that process; support youth organizations to develop partnerships with each other; facilitate the participation of youth representatives at important UN-Habitat meetings; and report in 2007. The Council also held before it a theme paper on enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance [HSP/GC/20/4]. In a related resolution [res. 20/16], the Executive Director was requested to continue compiling lessons learned and best practices and, in close collaboration with other parts of the UN system and with other partners, improve their dissemination and exchange, promote civil society involvement in UN-Habitat projects, and report to the Council in 2007.

The Council considered the Executive Director’s report on progress made in implementing UN-Habitat’s global campaign on secure tenure and urban governance, launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 995] [HSP/GC/20/INF/6] and endorsed the conclusion of an independent evaluation of the campaign [HSP/GC/20/INF/7]. The Executive Director was asked to ensure that the campaign had a higher global visibility and to further mainstream its principles through UN-Habitat activities and programmes. She was further requested to report on the matter in 2007 [res. 20/12].
Welcoming the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (see p. 1165) [res. 20/2], the Council requested the Executive Director to work closely with the Conference in achieving the aims of the Habitat Agenda and in accelerating the achievement of the MDGs in Africa; support the activities of the Conference and the implementation of the Cities Programme of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), and to report in 2007 on progress made by the Conference [res. 20/4]. The Executive Director was invited to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries [YUN 2006, p. 771] in UN-Habitat activities, as called for in General Assembly resolution 56/227 [ibid., p. 773], and to contribute to its effective implementation. Having considered a theme paper on post-conflict, natural and man-made disaster assessment and reconstruction [HSP/GC/20/5], the Council noted the guiding principles contained in the document and asked the Executive Director to elaborate them. She was requested to develop a strategic policy for UN-Habitat’s role in addressing the sustainable human settlements aspect of human-made and natural disaster management for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives before the end of 2005, and mobilize the financial resources required for such a strategy [res. 20/17]. In a further resolution [20/9], she was asked to assist in raising international awareness of the challenges faced by small island developing States with regard to sustainable human settlements development; assist those States in disaster preparedness, land registration, urban planning guidelines, and hurricane-resistant housing, among other areas; and to further strengthen cooperation with relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes related to small island developing States.

With regard to the sustainable development of Arctic cities [res. 20/8], the Council took note of the establishment of a North-North network for promoting and facilitating cooperation between cities located in the Arctic region. It requested the Executive Director to assist in raising international awareness of the sustainable development challenges of the far north and Arctic region, including those faced by indigenous people residing in those areas; consult with the United Nations and other partners and stakeholders on the matter; compile information on training activities in that region as a basis of further cooperation between UN-Habitat and relevant partners; and report on the implementation of the resolution to the Council in 2007.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People [HSP/GC/20/2/Add.3], the Council welcomed progress made and reiterated its invitation to the donor community and financial institutions to support the programme [res. 20/14].

In a resolution on strengthening the Slum Upgrading Facility of UN-Habitat and the Human Settlements Foundation [res. 20/11], the Council invited Governments and others to continue to contribute financially to the Facility, capitalizing it to a minimum level of $30 million. It requested the Executive Director to accelerate efforts to implement a cooperation framework between UN-Habitat and the World Bank Group and similar framework agreements with regional development banks, and to report to the Council in 2007 on progress made regarding the Slum Upgrading Facility. As to the preservation and sustainable development of oases [res. 20/5], the Council requested the Executive Director to take into account the specific needs of oases in UN-Habitat global programmes, particularly in the Sustainable Cities and Localizing Agenda 21 programmes [YUN 1992, p. 672], and to strengthen consultation and partnership mechanisms on the matter. Having considered a report of the Executive Director [HSP/GC/20/7] on the decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, the Council took note of the draft guidelines prepared by the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED) [YUN 2004, p. 1074]. It invited Governments to provide comments on the draft guidelines before the end of 2005 and requested the Executive Director, with AGRED support, to revise and finalize the guidelines during 2006 and to submit them to the Council in 2007. She was further requested to continue to develop the concept of a global observatory that would assess, monitor and evaluate the state of decentralization and accountability around the world [res. 20/18].

The Governing Council [res. 20/10] took note of the Executive Director’s report [HSP/GC/20/2/Add.1,2] on the second session of the World Urban Forum [YUN 2004, p. 1073], and noted that the outcomes of the Forum had been taken into account in the preparation of the Secretary-General’s report to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on human settlements, and recommended that UN-Habitat be the focal point for following up and monitoring the outcomes of that session pertaining to human settlements. It invited the Executive Director to include the topic of interrelations between human settlements, energy and sustainable development in the agenda of the third World Urban Forum; prepare a report on energy consumption
in human settlements, including examples of policy approaches for consideration by the Council and the Commission in 2007; inform Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the relevant outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Commission; and to report in 2007.

In further action, the Council [res. 20/9] approved the 2006-2007 draft integrated work programme and budget [HSP/GC/20/9], which included a general-purpose budget of $27,601,000, and a special-purpose budget of $35,148,000. It authorized the Executive Director to adjust the level of allocations for programme activities with the actual level of income, and to re-allocate general-purpose resources between subprogrammes up to a maximum 25 per cent of that budget. It requested the Executive Director to develop a resource-mobilization strategy for presentation to the Governing Council in 2007, including options for broadening the donor base and encouraging non-earmarked contributions. She was further requested to report periodically on the aging non-earmarked contributions. She was further requested to report periodically on the aging non-earmarked contributions. She was further requested to report periodically on the aging non-earmarked contributions.

The Council had before it a report of the Executive Director [HSP/GC/20/13] relating to the themes for the twenty-first (2007) and other future sessions of the Governing Council. The Council endorsed the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on improving preparations for its sessions, and decided that its special themes would no longer be chosen two years in advance but by its Bureau at least six months before the start of each session, on the advice of the Executive Director, and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Council requested the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in 2007, to recommend further proposals for improving the Committee’s structure and organizational arrangements, and the Executive Director to prepare a background paper on the subject for use by the Committee [res. 29/21].

Among other documents, the Governing Council also considered a joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP on their respective activities [YUN 2004, p. 1073]; a report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period [ibid., p. 1072]; and reports on implementing [HSP/GC/20/6] and monitoring the implementation of the MDG on improving the lives of slum dwellers [HSP/GC/20/6/Add.1].

Resolutions were also adopted on access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements [res. 20/5], regional and technical cooperation [res. 20/15] and gender equality in human settlements development [res. 20/7] (see below).

**UN-Habitat activities**

In 2005, UN-Habitat responded to the humanitarian challenges posed by the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami [YUN 2004, p. 953] and the earthquake in Pakistan on 8 October (see p. 1034). UN-Habitat was involved in rebuilding activities in Pakistan, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand that were affected by the tsunami. UN-Habitat programmes in post-conflict areas, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Somalia, remained active during the year, while new ground was broken for the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People. In June, the Security Council appointed UN-Habitat’s Executive Director, Anna Tibajjuka, as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Human Settlements in Zimbabwe. The Special Envoy visited that country (26 June–8 July) to assess reports of some 700,000 evictions of poor people by the Government (see p. 371). Following the submission of the mission’s report, UN-Habitat reached an agreement with the Government to explore more equitable housing and land tenure solutions.

UN-Habitat accelerated implementation of its Water and Sanitation Slum Upgrading initiatives, with the aim of strengthening the UN-Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and expanding working arrangements and partnerships with international and domestic financial institutions, the private sector, local government and the urban poor. During the year, UN-Habitat proposed innovative financial and institutional packages to help meet the slum upgrading and water and sanitation targets of the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49]. At the invitation of the United Kingdom, UN-Habitat participated in the work of the Commission for Africa [YUN 2004, p. 993] and continued its involvement in the annual meetings of Ministers of Housing and Urbanism of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

UN-Habitat’s Global Campaign for Urban Governance and its Global Campaign for Secure Tenure continued to assist in implementing national Campaign activities. The Programme expanded its collaboration with the five UN regional commissions, with a view to expanding both Campaigns at the regional level. Within the framework of the Campaigns, UN-Habitat collaborated with partners, including advocacy groups, regional networks, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank to mainstream the Campaigns’ objectives and more effectively synchronize UN-Habitat activities in the field. Collabora-
tion with partners were initiated in producing toolkits, conducting capacity-building workshops and facilitating stakeholder consultations. The two Campaigns were also involved in a research project on transnational migration.

The Programme’s operational activities focused on supporting Governments in formulating policies and strategies to create a self-reliant management capacity. As at 31 December, UN-Habitat was operating 95 technical programmes and projects in 60 countries around the world, with the majority in the least developed countries. The Programme’s Monitoring and Research Division published the Global Report on Human Settlements—Financing Urban Shelter, as well as four issues of its magazine, Habitat Debate.

In October, the Secretary-General appointed Inga Bjork-Klevby (Sweden) as Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

Access to basic services

On 8 April [res. 20/5], the Governing Council, taking note of proposals made to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development [YUN 2004, p. 831] to develop a set of codes and recommendations on partnerships and on the role of various actors regarding access to basic services for all, reaffirmed the importance of developing partnerships between central and local governments, the private sector, civil society and populations themselves, with a view to increasing national and local financial resources and capacities for improving access to those services. The Executive Director, in cooperation with other relevant UN bodies, was asked to compile best practices on policies, norms and institutional capacities related to the delivery of basic services within the context of sustainable human settlements, focusing on the respective roles and responsibilities of national Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, and to identify underlying principles which could be drawn from them for discussion by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. She was requested also to invite relevant UN bodies, Governments and interested stakeholders to comment on her report on the issue, which should be taken into account in finalizing options on the way forward, including recommendations on guiding principles on the delivery of and access to basic services for all, for submission to the Council in 2007.

Regional and technical cooperation

The Governing Council, on 8 April [res. 20/15], acknowledged that Habitat Programme Managers reported to regional offices, while contributing to all normative, advocacy and monitoring activities of UN-Habitat, and to the UN resident coordinator on a regular basis. It stressed that all UN-Habitat activities at the national level, including the work of Habitat Programme Managers, should be aligned with host-country national development strategies and plans and that normative operational activities should respond to national challenges. The Council agreed that the work of Programme Managers would focus on promoting the integration of sustainable urbanization into UN development assistance frameworks and national development strategies and plans, as well as the global and normative mandate, programmes and campaigns of UN-Habitat; and support UN-Habitat operational activities at the national and local levels.

The Council requested the Executive Director to comply, in the deployment of Habitat Programme Managers, with the budgetary allocation from the Foundation’s general-purpose contributions envisaged for that purpose in the 2006-2007 work programme and budget and to continue to deploy Programme Managers as other sources of funding were secured. She was further requested to undertake an independent strategic evaluation of the performance and impact of Habitat Programme Managers before the end of 2006, for submission to the Council in 2007, and to include the issue of their further deployment as part of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, to be developed for the Council’s 2007 session. Governments that were in a position to do so were invited to support the financial viability of the Habitat Programme Manager network, ideally through multi-year contributions, as well as UN-Habitat regional offices.

Role of women

On 8 April [res. 20/7], the Governing Council took note of the Executive Director’s report [HS/GC/20/2] on progress made in the implementation of its 2003 resolution on women’s roles and rights in human settlements and slum upgrading [YUN 2005, p. 1083]. Concerned by the persistence of discriminatory practices that limited women’s participation in decision-making and prevented their ownership of land, the Council requested Governments and local authorities to involve women in decision-making at all levels of government and to encourage their participation in human settlements development planning, and to strengthen gender mainstreaming in local government. Governments and local authorities should address violence and causes of violence.
against women in human settlements and develop partnerships with relevant organizations. Governments were urged to recognize and address, in a non-discriminatory way, the special needs, vulnerabilities, priorities and capacities of women in post-conflict and disaster situations, and review or revise discriminatory policies, laws and other practices, especially with regard to women’s property rights.

The Executive Director was asked to ensure that all normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat addressed gender equality and women’s empowerment in human settlements development by incorporating gender impact assessment and gender disaggregated data criteria in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their activities. In cooperation with Habitat Agenda partners, she should prepare information material and disseminate best practices on gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment in human settlements development at the local, municipal and national levels and report in 2007 on the implementation of the Council’s resolution.

OIOS review

In an April note [E/AC.5/2005/3], the Secretary-General transmitted a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the in-depth evaluation of UN-Habitat. The report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 59/272 [YUN 2004, p. 1370], reviewed the achievements and shortcomings of the Programme, considering such aspects as the advocacy of its norms, monitoring and research functions, operational activities, funding approaches, and executive direction and cross-cutting issues. With regard to its global campaigns, OIOS agreed that the Global Campaign on Urban Governance and the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure had raised awareness of the norms of good urban governance and secure tenure and led to changes at the policy and institutional levels in the countries in which the campaigns were launched. However, both Campaigns lacked clear strategies and plans and faced financial constraints. There were gaps in the Programme’s research agenda and there was a need to establish clearer priorities and provide guidance to the network of academic and research institutions assisting UN-Habitat in its analytical work. OIOS also found that, despite some capacity, security and time frame constraints, clients were satisfied with the products of UN-Habitat’s regional and technical cooperation projects, which had contributed to introducing new norms and policies at the national and local levels. The appointment of UN-Habitat Programme Managers (see p. 1171) had the potential to enhance the Programme’s capacity to achieve its development goals and to help integrate shelter and urban poverty issues into UN development assistance frameworks.

With regard to financing, despite the fourfold increase in bilateral extrabudgetary contributions and the efforts to develop innovative approaches to financing, OIOS was concerned over the substantial proportion of bilateral governmental contributions and the reliance on a small number of donors. The new subprogramme on human settlement financing lacked clarity with respect to responsibility for coordinating and raising funds for the various programmes and activities. Other concerns included the continued absence of a full-time Deputy Executive Director and problems of capacity and funding of UN-Habitat’s monitoring and evaluation functions. Recommendations were made to: further sharpen the focus of the Programme; improve the planning, management and funding of campaigns; mainstream housing rights; consolidate flagship reports; eliminate gaps in research; enhance the integration of the Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme into the UN-Habitat work programme; conduct an independent strategic evaluation of the role and effectiveness of UN-Habitat Programme Managers early in 2007; ensure the early involvement of human settlements experts in post-conflict and disaster assessment and reconstruction; improve the coordination of fund-raising activities; strengthen secretariat support to member States; and strengthen the capacity of the Evaluation and Monitoring Unit in its analytical work.

CPC action. On 10 and 13 June, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) [A/60/16 & Corr.1] considered the OIOS report. It urged UN-Habitat to continue to support the work of regional bodies, in particular the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (see p. 1165). It recommended that the General Assembly endorse the report’s recommendations (see above), except those relating to the mainstreaming of housing rights and the consolidation of flagship reports; that the OIOS recommended deadline for an independent strategic evaluation of the role of the UN-Habitat Programme Managers be changed from before 2007 to the end of 2006; and that UN-Habitat Financial Rules and Regulations be adopted no later than the end of 2005.