PART THREE

Economic and social questions
Development policy and international economic cooperation

In 2007, the growth of the world economy moderated from 2006 to a nonetheless robust 3.7 per cent. The major drag came from a slowdown in the United States, driven by the slump in the housing sector that became much more serious in the third quarter of the year. Significant spillover effects of the financial turmoil originating in the sub-prime mortgage markets were found in major European economies and, to a lesser extent, in Japan and other developed countries. Growth remained robust at 6.9 per cent in most developing countries, and accelerated to 8.0 per cent among the economies in transition as a result of buoyant commodity prices and strong domestic demand. The performance of the least developed countries (LDCs) remained strong on average, despite slowing somewhat compared with the previous year. The financial turmoil during the third quarter of 2007 signalled downside risks for the global outlook, revealing the lack of adequate supervision and regulation of domestic financial markets, as well as the threat of contagion in increasingly integrated, but also less transparent, international markets. In addition, the turmoil turned the spotlight on the problem of global macroeconomic imbalances.

Eradicating poverty and achieving the other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by the General Assembly in 2000, continued to be a major focus of the work of UN bodies in 2007. The Assembly reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and policy coherence on global development issues, as well as its vital role in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization and interdependence. Expressing concern that, after the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and midway to the 2015 MDGs target date, progress in reducing poverty had been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continued to increase, the Assembly, in December, proclaimed the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) in order to support in an efficient and coordinated manner the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, and reiterated the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development. The Economic and Social Council devoted its high-level segment to the question of strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies. During the segment, the Council launched the Development Cooperation Forum, held its first annual ministerial review of progress made in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, on the theme of strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development, and adopted a Ministerial Declaration on the subject.

The Commission on Sustainable Development continued to oversee the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, which reviewed progress in implementing Agenda 21, the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Commission focused on the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. The General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals.

The Assembly recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, were vital for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy. It reaffirmed the strong development orientation of the outcomes of the first (2003) and second (2005) phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and urged their full implementation. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development considered the theme of promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, focusing also on the review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS at the regional and international levels.

During the year, the Assembly reaffirmed that the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2001, constituted a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership aimed at accelerating sustained economic growth, sustainable development and pov-
erty eradication in the LDCs, and stressed the need to address, within the time frame set by the Programme of Action, areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in some LDCs through a strong commitment to its objectives, goals and targets.

In other actions regarding countries in special situations, UN bodies continued to review progress in the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action. The Assembly reaffirmed the Mauritius Strategy and recognized the need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for its effective implementation. As to landlocked developing countries, the Secretary-General reviewed progress in the status of preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2008, of the implementation of the Alma-Ata Programme of Action, adopted in 2003 by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation. Two thematic meetings were held as part of the preparatory process for the midterm review, and the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, which addressed the particular needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, was adopted in August.

International economic relations

Development and international economic cooperation

A number of UN bodies addressed development and international economic cooperation issues during 2007, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

On 19 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/62/417] on its discussion of macroeconomic policy questions (decision 62/537).

High-level meeting of Economic and Social Council, Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. On 16 April, the Economic and Social Council held in New York its tenth special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) [A/62/3/Rev.1]. The meeting addressed the theme of coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus [YUN 2002, p. 953] and had before it a March note by the Secretary-General on the same subject [E/2007/10 & Corr.1]. A summary of the meeting [A/62/76-E/2007/55 & Corr.1] by the Council President outlined the four sub-themes discussed during the special meeting: good governance at all levels; voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, including the Bretton Woods institutions; realizing the Doha Development Agenda: effective use of trade and investment policies; and aid effectiveness and innovative financing for development.

High-level segment of Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment of its 2007 substantive session (2-6 and 10 July) [A/62/3/Rev.1], discussed the theme of strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies, in accordance with its decision 2007/206 of 2 March. Activities included a high-level policy dialogue on current developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation, and two round tables, one on growth, poverty reduction and equity: emerging paradigm, and the other on coherence and coordination of macroeconomic policies at all levels. The Council had before it a May report by the Secretary-General on the subject [E/2007/68], which examined different approaches to the concept of pro-poor growth and concluded that, in order to ensure that sustained economic growth was pro-poor and led to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51], macroeconomic policies should be broad-based in their approach. The starting point was the adoption of a long-term, comprehensive development policy or national development strategy, which should integrate short-term counter-cyclical policies and be supported by predictable financial flows. Macroeconomic policy coordination at the international and regional levels was essential for supporting developing countries to achieve pro-poor sustained economic growth at the national level. The Secretary-General recommended that concrete steps be taken to build institutional capacities in developing countries. International development partners, including the UN system, should work together to tailor their support for building institutional capacity to the specific needs of each country. He also emphasized the need to increase access to low-cost financing by developing countries in order to meet their investment needs for infrastructure and human development, and the need to strengthen the international coordination of macroeconomic policies to improve the stability and efficiency of the global economy. The
IMF role should be strengthened and supplemented by regional coordination mechanisms and reserve funds, a new, supranational currency based on the special drawing rights should be considered to prevent major global payments imbalances, and better follow-up and monitoring would be required to ensure the fulfillment of the commitments made regarding official development assistance (ODA). The Economic and Social Council should promote refinement of the concept of “pro-poor growth” and the identification and implementation of measures to promote such growth in a sustained manner; it should also facilitate, through the annual ministerial review, the sharing of experiences in promoting pro-poor sustained economic growth at the national level and within the UN system.

On 5 July, the Council launched the Development Cooperation Forum, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/16 [YUN 2006, p. 1589], and held two round tables, one on promoting greater coherence among development activities of different development partners: the role of national aid coordination and management; and the other on the review of trends in international development cooperation: South-South and triangular cooperation.

On 10 July, the Council adopted a Ministerial Declaration on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development.

**Communication.** On 18 June [E/2007/80], Austria transmitted to the Council President the report of the Vienna High-level Symposium: preparing for the Development Cooperation Forum (Vienna, 19-20 April), which considered the theme of country-level experiences in coordinating and managing development cooperation.

**Annual ministerial review**

During the high-level segment, the Council began its first annual ministerial review (AMR) (3-4 July) of progress made in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. In accordance with Council decision 2007/207 of 2 March, the theme for the 2007 AMR was strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development. Activities included two high-level round tables, one on ending the cycle of food crises: a home-grown green revolution in Africa, and the other on poverty eradication—making it happen. The Council had before it the Secretary-General’s report on the same theme [E/2007/71], which stated that absolute poverty had continued to decline and, by 2015, all major regions except sub-Saharan Africa were expected to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to less than half the 1990 rate. There had also been global progress in other dimensions of poverty, such as access to education and health care. Nevertheless, the improvement was insufficient to achieve the MDGs. Meanwhile, the global physical environment continued to deteriorate, with potentially devastating consequences for the world’s poor. The report noted that developing countries were supported by a strengthened global partnership. ODA and debt relief to developing countries had increased, but net financial flows were negative and ODA did not rise to the level of the commitments made by developed countries. Attention should be focused on strengthening and accelerating implementation of the UN development agenda, developing countries should elaborate and implement national development strategies, and development partners should fulfill their commitments to increase ODA in a predictable fashion; they should also accelerate progress towards a development-friendly outcome to the trade negotiations of the Doha Round. As to AMRs, the report highlighted that they provided a platform for the Council to monitor and catalyse the realization of the UN development agenda by strengthening accountability at all levels, and should be supported by closer interaction with regional and national activities. States should consider establishing, in addition to national voluntary presentations, regional ministerial reviews, as building blocks of a broader process leading to future AMRs.

**Communication.** By a 28 June note [E/2007/84], Brazil transmitted to the Council President the report of the Latin America and the Caribbean regional preparatory meeting (Brasilia, Brazil, 17-18 May) for the Council’s AMR. The theme of the meeting was “Key challenges in financing poverty and hunger eradication efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

**Globalization and interdependence**

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/207 [YUN 2006, p. 977], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/62/303] on the impact of international commitments, policies and processes on the scope and the implementation of national development strategies, which identified key areas where international disciplines, rules, policies and processes had an impact on the ability of countries to design and implement strategies, including obligations in the interrelated areas of finance and investment, trade and the environment. The report also highlighted how Governments could pursue country-specific development-oriented policies, and discussed the role of the United Nations in helping countries to implement their unique strategies.

The report stated that managing globalization for the benefit of all remained a concern. Economic liberalization unleashed global market forces that had a significant impact on the degree of flexibility countries had in shaping national policies; at the same
time, international obligations bound countries to certain international disciplines and processes. Those obligations were wide-ranging, covering economic, social and environmental areas, and many countries had difficulty in shaping and implementing them and faced many challenges as they endeavoured to balance international obligations with national priorities. Developing countries, especially the least developed and most vulnerable, felt increasingly constrained, and their ability to have goal-oriented national development strategies was impeded by some of the demands of international policies, commitments, processes and rules. The report noted that to facilitate adequate responses, policies needed to be flexible and tailored to changing domestic and external circumstances, and concluded that implementing national development strategies would require significant commitments of financial, human and intellectual resources. Equally important was the expertise required to participate during negotiations of international agreements.

At the national level, the Secretary-General recommended that, as developing countries increasingly complemented multilateral trade negotiations with regional or bilateral agreements with developed countries, they needed to understand the full implications of such agreements for their economies. Long-term institutional capacity development was important to equip and empower local research and training communities to advise national policymakers and train negotiators and analysts. Developing countries should ensure that ODA translated into higher public investment. In reducing fluctuations in real output, consideration should be given to the use of a full range of regulatory tools, such as the rules governing capital requirements, and to other measures affecting conditions in credit and asset markets. The public sector remained crucial for financing and investing in basic services, as well as for integrating social policies along with economic and environmental ones to ensure good governance. Governments should be given full support and encouraged to foster regional and global initiatives to address social issues as well.

At the international level, developed countries and donors should align their overall support to developing and recipient countries’ national development strategies, institutions and procedures. Donors should also harmonize their actions by implementing common arrangements and simplifying procedures in order to reduce duplication and enhance the transparency of their actions. Issues pertaining to the impact of the new environmental, health and food-safety requirements on the access of developing country products to key export markets should be addressed. New instruments of aid support should aim to foster social development. In the case of those heavily indebted poor countries that had received debt relief under the initiative but still needed additional resources to finance investment for development, there was a need to promote responsible lending and borrowing and link the grant element of such loans to the capacity to pay.

As to the role of the United Nations, while providing assistance in designing national development strategies, it should ensure that Governments secured flexibility to design policies that could help them to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Similar consideration should be given in the Organization’s operational work. The United Nations should also provide a unique forum at the regional and subregional levels where the implications of signing on to international obligations, especially for developing countries, were discussed. Given the growing importance of regional and interregional initiatives, it should help countries participate in those initiatives while ensuring linkages with the multilateral system. The United Nations should help countries by designing policy implications packages that analysed the impact of international agreements on national strategies. Ideally, those strategies should recognize the distinct yet interrelated roles of various stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society. Development stakeholders, including the United Nations, should help developing countries analyse the impact of such agreements to ensure a favourable outcome.

**Communications.** On 3 August [A/62/216], Be-nin transmitted to the Secretary-General the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Time for Action, adopted at the Ministerial Conference of LDCs (Istanbul, Turkey, 9-10 July) on the theme of making globalization work for LDCs (see p. 866). Recognizing that the process of globalization and interdependence was potentially a dynamic force that could contribute to growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, the Declaration noted that LDCs remained marginalized in the globalizing world. It also noted the increasing interdependence of national economies and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations, and emphasized that each Government should evaluate the trade-offs between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space, and should take into account the need for balance between national policy space and international commitments. It stressed the need for a fair globalization and open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems that benefited all countries, particularly LDCs.

On 8 October [A/62/488], Pakistan, as the Chair of the Group of 77, transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-first annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China (New York, 27 September). The Declaration called for the reform of the global financial architecture and economic governance to
ensure that global policies and processes in finance, trade, investment and technology were development-oriented and addressed the needs and concerns of developing countries. It reiterated that developing countries should have the required policy space to formulate their development strategies.

On 18 October [A/62/507-S/2007/636], Pakistan, as the Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group in New York, transmitted to the Secretary-General the Final Communiqué of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (New York, 2 October), which reaffirmed the need to strengthen the role and capacity of the UN system to assist developing countries’ efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, and emphasized the need to promote the new global economic order aimed at reversing the growing disparity between the rich and poor, both among and within countries.

On 17 October [A/62/492-E/2007/616], Tajikistan, as the Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, transmitted to the Secretary-General the Bishkek Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (Bishkek, Tajikistan, 16 August), which stated that, as the process of globalization intensified, the interdependence, security and development of States became interconnected and only through the concerted efforts of the international community, based on agreed principles and by means of multilateral mechanisms, could challenges and threats be counteracted, under UN auspices and in accordance with its Charter.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/421/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/199 without vote [agenda item 56 (a)].

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,


Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome and all relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular those that have built upon the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in the economic, social and related fields, including General Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Emphasizing the need to fully implement the global partnership for development and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement the commitments made in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that development is a central goal by itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

Recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Reaffirming also the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world’s people,

Recognizing that globalization, driven largely by economic liberalization and technology, implies that the economic performance of a country is increasingly affected by factors outside its geographical borders and that maximizing in an equitable manner the benefits of globalization requires developing responses to globalization through a strengthened global partnership for development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming the commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all and to promote the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization,

Reaffirming also its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into reduction of poverty and, in this regard, its resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting that particular attention must be given, in the context of globalization, to the objective of protecting, promoting and enhancing the rights and welfare of women and girls, as stated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Reaffirming its commitment to governance, equity and transparency in the financial, monetary and trading sys-
systems and its commitment to open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems.

Reaffirming the importance of migration as a phenomenon, among others, accompanying increased globalization, including its impact on economies, aware of the fact that all countries are impacted by international migration, and hence stressing the crucial importance of dialogue and cooperation so as to better understand the international migration phenomenon, including its gender perspective, and to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Recognizes that some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization, but that many others, especially the least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalizing world economy, and also that, as stated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the benefits are very unevenly shared while costs are unevenly distributed;
3. Also recognizes that domestic economies are now intertwined with the global economy and that globalization affects all countries in different ways, and that countries on the one hand have trade and investment opportunities to, inter alia, fight poverty, while on the other face constraints in the degree of flexibility they have in pursuing their national development strategies;
4. Further recognizes that, while all countries face such constraints, developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries, have greater difficulties in balancing international obligations, processes and rules with their national development strategies;
5. Underlines the fact that, in addressing the linkages between globalization and sustainable development, particular focus should be placed on identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection and that this requires efforts at both the national and international levels;
6. Also underlines the fact that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations, that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space and that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments, and in this regard notes with appreciation the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the concept of policy space, as articulated in the São Paulo Consensus and the World Summit Outcome;
7. Reaffirms that good governance is essential for sustainable development, that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation, and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;
8. Also reaffirms that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development, that, in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance by addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries and that, to this end, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries;
9. Further reaffirms that each country has primary responsibility for its own development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;
10. Underlines the fact that, while recognizing the commitment of developing countries to their international duties and obligations, internationally agreed rules and disciplines should take into account lessons learned and current developments in implementation in the light of the special situation of developing countries, and in this regard reiterates the need for continuing flexibility and special provisions for developing countries as international financial and trade institutions formulate and implement rules and regulations to create an enabling international economic environment for sustained growth and broad-based development;
11. Stresses that all countries need to maintain their right to pursue policies based on their social, political, economic and environmental conditions and that, in this regard, countries, in particular developing countries, need flexibility and national policy space that are compatible with their specific development conditions, taking into account international obligations, processes and rules;
12. Acknowledges the need for continuing flexibility and special provisions for developing countries in the multilateral trading system;
13. Reaffirms the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, stresses, to that end, the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, noting that enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions remains a continuous concern, and calls in this regard for further and effective progress;
14. Also reaffirms the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

15. Calls upon the United Nations system to support the efforts of developing countries to enhance their capacities regarding the impact of international agreements on national development strategies;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-third session, a report on the theme “Impact of globalization on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals” under the agenda item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, a sub-item entitled “Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence”.

Also on 19 December, the Assembly, by decision 62/538, took note of the report of the Second Committee [A/62/421] on its consideration of globalization and interdependence.

**Development through partnership**

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/215 [YUN 2005, p. 914], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector [A/62/341], which built upon his 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 743], 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 835] and 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 913] reports on the subject. It stated that strategic engagement with the private sector and other stakeholders proved to be an effective method for advancing UN goals, particularly development goals such as the MDGs. UN-business engagement had evolved based on an understanding that, although the goals of the Organization and the private sector were quite distinct, there were overlapping objectives. The voluntary nature of the UN-business cooperation ensured that related activities were not in competition with Government actions, but rather a complementary way of advancing UN goals. Across the United Nations, various approaches and strategies for engaging with the private sector were used, including values-based engagements that led to normative and operational actions, broad sectoral efforts and time-bound partnerships. Over the previous two years, steps had been taken both at the level of individual agencies, funds and programmes and at the broader system level. Many agencies, funds and programmes enhanced their capacity to work with the private sector in support of UN goals, for example, by developing a strategic approach to partnering and by enhancing the capacity of their country offices to reach out to the private sector. However, the establishment and effectiveness of relationships between the United Nations, the private sector and other stakeholders varied greatly across the UN system. At the system level, the Global Compact, launched in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 989], was a catalyst for expanding system-wide cooperation with business, through collaboration with numerous UN entities, including the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and the United Nations System Staff College. The Global Compact Leaders Summit (Geneva, 5-6 July) underscored a strong shared interest in further building relations between the United Nations, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The Secretary-General recommended steps the UN system should take to harness the full potential of private sector contributions while safeguarding UN integrity and reputation. Those included: tailoring training to needs and relying on more diverse sources for training; strengthening private sector focal points and extending recognition for partnership development; strengthening strategic planning for engaging the private sector; increasing dissemination and adoption of mechanisms for sharing lessons; improving partner identification and selection; updating the UN-business guidelines; and creating and disseminating tools for impact assessment.

Additionally, increased caretaking of the UN-business relationship was required to ensure that support and focus were provided to implement recommended actions. The support of the Assembly remained critical for carrying forward cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/426], adopted resolution 62/211 without vote [agenda item 61].

**Towards global partnerships**

The General Assembly,


Reaffirming the vital role of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Underlining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations, and the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policymaking,

Reaffirming its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability,
Taking note of the increasing number of public-private partnerships worldwide,

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they have received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also that the 2005 World Summit encouraged the pursuit of responsible business practices,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, can make concrete contributions to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Underlining also the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Welcoming, in this regard, the participation of civil society and private-sector entities in the multi-stakeholder consultations on financing for development, whose findings were presented at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 23 and 24 October 2007,

Recognizing the need, where appropriate, to enhance the capacity of Member States to participate effectively in partnerships, at all levels, in accordance with national priorities and national legislation, and encouraging international support for such efforts in developing countries,

Emphasizing that all relevant partners, including the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, to accept and to implement corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Welcoming also the continuous efforts by the Commission on Sustainable Development through its secretariat to promote partnerships for sustainable development, inter alia, through the implementation and expansion of an interactive online database as a platform to provide access to information on partnerships and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices and through the regular holding of partnership fairs at the sessions of the Commission,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, such as the Global Compact, launched by the Secretary-General, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;

2. Stresses that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

3. Also stresses the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving these goals;

4. Further stresses that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5. Recalls that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and also recalls that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in the following areas: the generation of new investments and employment, financing for development, health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

6. Recognizes the role that public-private partnerships can play in efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, also recognizes the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies, and further recognizes the need for effective accountability and transparency in their implementation;
7. Calls upon the international community to continue to promote multi-stakeholder approaches in addressing the challenges of development in the context of globalization;

8. Encourages the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach, which places greater emphasis on impact, transparency, accountability and sustainability, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, and with due consideration being given to the following partnership principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations;

9. Also encourages the activities of the United Nations Global Compact as an innovative public-private partnership to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community, including through an increased number of local networks, acknowledges the special management, support, funding structure and position of the Global Compact within the United Nations system, which are specifically designed to reflect the diversity of its stakeholders, notes the activities of the Global Compact Office in this regard, and encourages it to continue its efforts, in particular in continuing to share relevant lessons learned and positive experiences from partnerships;


11. Acknowledges the ongoing work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces and commissions, within their respective mandates, and in this regard encourages the provision of adequate training, as appropriate;

12. Encourages the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies to share relevant lessons learned and positive experiences from partnerships, including with the business community, as a contribution to the development of more effective United Nations partnerships;

13. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance partnership management through the promotion of adequate training at all concerned levels, institutional capacity in country offices, strategic focus and local ownership, the sharing of best practices, the improvement of partner selection processes and the streamlining of United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, and requests that such activities be continued, as appropriate;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to promote, within existing resources, impact-assessment mechanisms of partnerships, taking into account best tools available, in order to enable effective management, ensure accountability and facilitate effective learning from both successes and failures;

15. Welcomes innovative approaches to use partnerships as a means to better implement goals and programmes, in particular in support of the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, and encourages relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to further explore such possibilities, bearing in mind their different mandates, modes of operation and objectives, as well as the particular roles of the non-public partners involved;

16. Recommends, in this context, that partnerships should also foster the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including on gender grounds, in respect of employment and occupation;

17. Reiterates its call upon:

(a) All bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their websites and through other means;

(b) Partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations with which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

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

**New global human order**

The General Assembly, by decision 61/563 of 17 September, deferred consideration of the item entitled “The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order” and included it in the draft agenda of its sixty-second session.

On 21 December [meeting 79], the Assembly adopted resolution 62/213 [draft: A/62/L.35/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 50].

**The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/48 of 29 November 2000 and 57/12 of 14 November 2002 on the role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order,

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being and that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that development is a central goal by itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

Recognizing that the well-being of people and the full development of their potential is pivotal to sustainable development, and convinced of the urgency of international cooperation towards that end,
Deeply concerned about the disparities between rich and poor, both within and among countries, and about the adverse implications of these disparities for the promotion of human development throughout the world,

Encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past, and determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide,

Recognizing the action already under way by all Member States, the United Nations system and other international, regional and national forums and organizations and the progress made to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that the achievement of many of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in many countries is currently off track, and emphasizing that vigorous implementation of all development commitments will be needed without delay if the Goals are to be achieved,

1. Stresses the need for a broad-based consensus for action within a comprehensive and holistic framework towards the achievement of the goals of development and poverty eradication involving all actors, namely Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations and relevant actors of civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

2. Notes with interest the proposal regarding a new global human order;

3. Recognizes that the increased pace of globalization and growing interdependence have heightened the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism in meeting global challenges and solving common problems, including those that have arisen from the uneven impact of globalization on development and human well-being;

4. Underlines the need to foster national and international conditions conducive to the promotion of human well-being and the full realization of human potential, and in this regard urges countries to develop and adopt national strategies to achieve their national development priorities as well as the internationally agreed goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

5. Reaffirms the commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, to mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, assuring long-term investment in human capital and infrastructure, promoting international trade as an engine for economic growth and development and increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and to enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

6. Recognizes that inequality within and among countries is a concern for all countries regardless of their level of development and that it represents a growing challenge with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social potential and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in that report an assessment of the implications of inequality for development;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled “The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order”.

Coercive economic measures

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/185 [YUN 2005, p. 916], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries [A/62/210], which summarized replies received, as at 31 July, from nine Governments, two UN bodies and one international organization, in response to his request for information on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/417/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/183 by recorded vote (128-2-51) [agenda item 52 (a)].

Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,


Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economy and development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

Recognizing that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Urges the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or
are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;

3. **Calls upon** the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the imposition of measures of this nature and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

5. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 62/183:**

In **favour:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** Israel, United States.

**Abstaining:** Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

**Sustainable development**

**Implementation of Agenda 21, Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**

In 2007, several UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development, considered the implementation of outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], particularly the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, which outlined actions and targets for stepping up implementation of Agenda 21—a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 672]—and of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 792].

**Commission on Sustainable Development consideration.** As the main body responsible for coordinating and monitoring implementation of the Summit outcomes, the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its fifteenth session (New York, 12 May 2006, 30 April–11 May 2007) [E/2007/29], discussed, in line with the multi-year programme adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2003/61 [YUN 2003, p. 842], the thematic cluster for the 2006/2007 implementation cycle: energy for sustainable development; industrial development; air pollution/atmosphere; and climate change.

**Intersessional events.** The following intersessional events took place in preparation for its fifteenth session: sixth meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy: Africa is Energizing Itself (Vienna, 29 November–1 December 2006); Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development (Nairobi, 22-23 March); Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Oslo Conference on Good Governance and Social and Environmental Responsibility (Oslo, 28–30 March); Ministerial Conference on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: innovative policies and financing instruments for the European Union’s southern and eastern neighbours (Berlin, 19 April); and Third Asia-Europe Environment Ministers’ Meeting (Copenhagen, 24–26 April).

**Thematic issues.** For its consideration of the thematic cluster for the 2006/2007 implementation cycle, the Commission had before it reports by the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation: energy for sustainable development [E/CN.17/2007/2]; industrial development [E/CN.17/2007/3]; air pollution/atmosphere [E/ CN.17/2007/4]; climate change [E/CN.17/2007/5]; and inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues [E/CN.17/2007/6]. It also considered the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session (New York, 26 February–2 March) [E/CN.17/2007/9] and a Secretariat note on major groups, priorities for action on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change [E/CN.17/2007/7].
Implementation activities

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/195 [YUN 2006, p. 983], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/62/262] on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which provided an update on actions taken by Governments, UN system organizations and major groups in advancing implementation of sustainable development goals and targets, including through partnerships for sustainable development. The report contained an overview of trends in implementation, a summary of the outcomes of intergovernmental bodies and updates of ongoing inter-agency activities. It showed that implementation of sustainable development principles, goals and policies continued at all levels. Some common features in implementation facilitated efforts by all actors to exchange lessons learned and best practices. To expedite implementation, Governments and other stakeholders developed a strategic focus for sustainable development, adopted sustainable development principles to guide sector-specific plans, took an integrated and holistic approach, ensured broad participation in implementation and developed a practical focus on specific measures and corresponding criteria. States, UN system organizations and major groups should stay on that implementation track while aiming for accelerated progress.

At the intergovernmental level, the Economic and Social Council focused on strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies, and on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development. The fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development focused on the interlinked issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. At the inter-agency level, UN-Energy continued to serve as a gateway for sharing information, knowledge, experiences and good practices as well as initiatives in energy-related activities within the UN system, and UN-Water continued its work on all aspects of water and sanitation. At the regional level, the five UN regional commissions, regional development banks and other regional institutions addressed policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation in the four thematic areas. Major groups continued to contribute to the implementation of sustainable development on many levels, playing multiple roles as advocates, implementers and stakeholders, and utilizing their expertise and knowledge to promote education in sustainable development, raise awareness of social, economic and environmental issues, and monitor progress towards implementation. Major groups also contributed to implementation through partnerships for sustainable development and by launching their own initiatives.

The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly call on Governments, UN system organizations and major groups to continue expediting progress in implementation by exchanging lessons learned and best practices, and invite the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue improving its methods of work with a view to facilitating such exchanges. The Assembly should also call on Governments to continue providing their support to the Commission and organize intersessional activities, taking into account the thematic cluster of issues to be considered in 2008/2009; and should urge donor Governments and international financial institutions to increase ODA in the areas of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board (ceb) for Coordination should continue monitoring, through the High-level Committee on Programmes, the operational efficiency and effectiveness of inter-agency collaborative mechanisms, including UN-Energy, UN-Water and other arrangements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/419/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/189 without vote [agenda item 54 (a)].

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,
Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,
Reaffirming the commitment to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,
Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,
Reaffirming the decisions taken at the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,
Reiterating that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, and reaffirming the continuing need to ensure a balance among economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Noting that challenges remain in achieving the goals of the three pillars of sustainable development,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Reaffirming the role of full and productive employment and decent work for all as one of the key elements in ensuring the eradication of poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, and the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development for all nations,

Recognizing that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

Recalling that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission to serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development and contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

Recalling also that the Economic and Social Council should increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development, and reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling further the decision of the Commission at its eleventh session that the Commission, during review years, should discuss the contribution of partnerships towards supporting the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practices, identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints, and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during policy years, as necessary,

Recalling that agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification are interlinked and should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, related sectoral policies and cross-cutting issues including means of implementation, as identified at the eleventh session of the Commission,

Recognizing the problems and constraints that African countries are facing in the areas of agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification, and emphasizing that those problems and constraints should be adequately addressed during the sixteenth session of the Commission,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Reiterates that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and those contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
3. Calls upon Governments, all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and other intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as major groups, to take action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and encourages them to report on concrete progress in that regard;
4. Calls for the effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and for the fulfilment of the provisions relating to the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
5. Reiterates that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the high-level body responsible for sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as a forum for the consideration of issues related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;
6. Encourages countries to present, on a voluntary basis, in particular at the Commission’s review sessions, national reports focusing on concrete progress in implementation, including achievements, constraints, challenges and opportunities;
7. Emphasizes the importance of a consensus outcome and action-oriented policy sessions;
8. Encourages Governments to participate at the appropriate level with representatives, including ministers, from the relevant departments and organizations working in the areas of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa, as well as finance, in the sixteenth session of the Commission;
9. **Recalls** the decision of the Commission at its eleventh session that activities during Commission meetings should provide for the balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance;

10. **Invites** donor countries to consider supporting the participation of representatives from the developing countries in the sixteenth session of the Commission;

11. **Reaffirms** the objective of strengthening the implementation of Agenda 21, including through the mobilization of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programmes, in particular for developing countries;

12. **Also reaffirms** the objective of enhancing the participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation, in the implementation of Agenda 21;

13. **Requests** the secretariat of the Commission to coordinate the participation of the relevant major groups in the thematic discussions at the sixteenth session of the Commission and the reporting on the fulfilment of corporate accountability and responsibility with respect to the thematic cluster of issues, in accordance with the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

14. **Reaffirms** the need to promote corporate responsibility and accountability as envisaged by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

15. **Also reaffirms** the need to promote the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, including by means of training, education and skill enhancement, with a special focus on agro-industry as a provider of livelihoods for rural communities;

16. **Requests** the secretariat of the Commission to make arrangements to facilitate the balanced representation of major groups from developed and developing countries in the sessions of the Commission;

17. **Encourages** contributions by the regional implementation meetings and other regional events to the Commission at its sixteenth session;

18. **Invites** the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations funds and programmes, the Global Environment Facility and international and regional financial and trade institutions, as well as the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and other relevant bodies, to actively participate, within their mandates, in the work of the Commission;

19. **Encourages** Governments and organizations at all levels, as well as major groups, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities to support the work of the Commission and to promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including through voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives;

20. **Underlines** the importance of the review of the implementation of the decisions of the thirteenth session of the Commission on water and sanitation;

21. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission at its sixteenth session, on the basis of appropriate inputs from all levels, to submit thematic reports on each of the six issues contained in the thematic cluster of issues on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, taking into account their interlinkages, while addressing the cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation identified by the Commission at its eleventh session, and also takes into account the relevant provisions of paragraphs 10, 14 and 15 of draft resolution I of the eleventh session of the Commission;

22. **Notes** the convening of the Third International Expert Meeting on the Ten-year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production under the Marrakech Process in Stockholm from 26 to 29 June 2007;

23. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development”, and requests the Secretary-General, at that session, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

**Agricultural technology for development**

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/419/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/190 by recorded vote (147-0-30) [agenda item 54 (a)].

**Agricultural technology for development**

The General Assembly,


Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Reaffirming the commitment to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming also the goals set in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to halve poverty and hunger by 2015,

Reaffirming further that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and the role of national
policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,
Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,
Recognizing that the achievement of many of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is currently off track in many countries, and emphasizing that vigorous implementation of all development commitments will be needed without delay if the Goals are to be achieved,

Remaining concerned that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfill the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Noting the preparatory work being carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development for its next two-year cycle, with the thematic focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa,

Concerned by the relatively slow progress so far in achieving the above-mentioned goals, especially the hunger target and goals, and recognizing the need to redouble the efforts of the international community in its attempt to reach the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and that enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security is imperative and that sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increasing food production and enhancing food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way,

Considering the increasing need to innovate in agriculture and food production to adapt, inter alia, to climate change, urbanization and globalization,

Cognizant that technological methods to advance these goals should be sustainable, accessible and of benefit to poor people, taking into account relevant international instruments and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that appropriate, affordable and sustainable agricultural technologies can play an important role in helping Member States alleviate poverty and eradicate hunger,

1. Calls upon Member States, especially those in a position to do so, and relevant United Nations organizations to make greater efforts to promote the development and transfer of appropriate technologies in and to developing countries under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, as well as to support national efforts to foster the effective utilization of local know-how and technology and promote agricultural research and technologies to enable poor rural men and women to increase agricultural productivity and enhanced food security;

2. Underlines the need for Member States to make their knowledge and know-how in the field of agricultural technology and agricultural innovation systems more accessible, in particular to poor people, subject to appropriate arrangements;

3. Reiterates that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular as they affect children, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and that rural and agricultural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies, calls for increased productive investment in rural and agricultural development to achieve food security, in this regard calls for enhanced support for agricultural development and trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector in developing countries, including by the international community and the United Nations system, and encourages support for commodity development projects, especially market-based projects, and for their preparation under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities;

4. Notes with satisfaction the contribution made by the Technology for Agriculture initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

5. Urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to take full advantage of new knowledge in agricultural technology, agricultural innovation, research and development to achieve relevant Millennium Development Goals, specifically the eradication of poverty and hunger;

6. Calls upon public and private institutions to further develop improved varieties of crops that are appropriate for various regions, especially those challenged by environmental factors, including climate change, and to develop and manage these crops in a sustainable manner, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that improved crop varieties are made available and affordable to smallholder farmers in a manner consistent with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

7. Underscores the importance of support to agricultural research, and calls for continued support to international agricultural research systems, including the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, as well as other relevant international organizations;

8. Recognizes the importance of relevant institutions providing effective mechanisms for public-private agricultural advisory services as well as extension, financial and market services to farmers, in particular smallholder farmers, so that the benefits of new knowledge, agricultural innovation systems and improved technology may reach them and be used by them;

9. Invites Member States, especially those in a position to do so, and relevant regional and international organizations to allocate financial and technical resources to support the development of efficient, productive and environmentally sound technologies for sustainable agriculture in developing countries;
10. Requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 62/190:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Commission on Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development held its fifteenth session (policy session) in New York on 12 May 2006 and from 30 April to 11 May 2007 [E/2007/29]. On 11 May, the Commission held the first meeting of the sixteenth session, at which it elected the members of the Bureau [E/2008/29]. The Commission’s high-level segment (9-11 May) focused on turning commitments into action: working together in partnership. On 30 April, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives of major groups on priorities with regard to practical measures and options to further implementation efforts relevant to the thematic cluster of issues for the 2006/2007 implementation cycle, namely energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. A partnerships fair addressed challenges, lessons learned and best practices in implementing sustainable development goals and commitments, and highlighted on-the-ground experiences from partnership practitioners on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation. A learning centre offered 17 courses on topics related to the Commission’s 15 themes, as well as on cross-cutting issues such as education, gender, decision-making tools, financing and development strategies.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption two draft decisions: one on dates of the Commission’s meetings during its 2008/2009 cycle (see p. 847) and the other on the Commission’s report on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda for the sixteenth session (ibid.). It also adopted a decision [dec. 15/1] on the draft programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), by which it took note of a note by the Secretariat on the subject.

Ministers and delegations undertook negotiations on the interlinked issues of the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. There was agreement that the issues were of fundamental importance to achieving sustainable development and the MDGs; however, delegations remained divided on key points in energy and climate change. As a consequence of not reaching consensus, the Chairperson presented a decision text for consideration by the Commission. The European Union and Switzerland rejected the decision text because agreement could not be reached on time-bound targets for renewable energy, the integration of energy policies into national planning by 2010, a review arrangement for energy issues in the United Nations and an international agreement on energy efficiency. The Commission then brought to the attention of the Council the Chairperson’s summary on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in the thematic cluster in lieu of the decision document.

The Commission had before it a 26 January letter from Iceland to the Secretary-General transmitting the conclusions and recommendations of the International Seminar on the Hydrogen Economy for Sustainable Development (Reykjavík, 28-29 September 2006) [E/CN.17/2007/8]; a 30 April letter from Germany transmitting the summary and conclusions from the ministerial conference on “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: innovative policies and financing instruments for the European Union’s southern and eastern neighbours” (Berlin, 19 April) [E/CN.17/2007/11]; two 3 May letters from Germany transmitting its contribution [E/CN.17/2007/12] and the European Union’s contribution [E/CN.17/2007/13] to the compilation of national and regional goals and commitments prepared for the Commission’s fifteenth session; and an 11 May letter from Portugal transmitting its contribution to the same compilation [E/CN.17/2007/14]. It also had
before it a Secretariat note on the draft programme of work for 2008-2009 for the desa Division for Sustainable Development [E/CN.17/2007/10].

The Council, on 23 July, took note of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session [E/2007/29] and approved the provisional agenda for the sixteenth (2008) session (decision 2007/235). On the same date, the Council decided that the Commission’s sixteenth session (review session) should take place from 5 to 16 May 2008, that the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the seventeenth (2009) session (policy session) should take place from 23 to 27 February 2009 and that the seventeenth session should take place from 4 to 15 May 2009 (decision 2007/234).

Eradication of poverty

UN Decade for Eradication of Poverty

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/213 [YUN 2006, p. 994], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/62/267] on implementation of the first UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), which reviewed key developments that took place during the Decade, including the strengthened national and international commitment to poverty eradication, and addressed the challenges and initiatives undertaken. It highlighted the need to develop comprehensive national development strategies that should be broad and inclusive and should adopt an integrated and holistic approach addressing poverty in all its dimensions: access to health services, education, food, productive employment and decent work and financial resources; gender equality; and the empowerment and participation of all disadvantaged groups, including the poor, in the development process. Strategic lines of action should include pragmatic fiscal policies and sound monetary policies that preserved macroeconomic stability while promoting public and private investment, employment creation and growth. Without support from the donor community, countries that experienced serious difficulties in reducing poverty could not achieve national capacity-building and mobilization of national resources. The report noted that repeated commitment to align ODA with national efforts to reduce poverty was limited to debt relief, and spending on core development programmes had remained constant over the Decade. It also stressed the importance for the international community to contribute to national efforts by creating a global economic environment that promoted employment in developing countries.

The Secretary-General urged Member States, UN system organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners to reaffirm their commitment and continue undertaking more concerted efforts in the fight against poverty at the national and international levels, and called on countries with extreme poverty to develop and implement a national development strategy in order to halve extreme poverty by 2015. He encouraged UN system organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions and donors to continue assisting developing countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, in particular the goal of poverty eradication.

Communication. On 7 August [A/62/211], Pakistan transmitted to the Secretary-General a press release from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) regarding the launch of the OIC Poverty Alleviation Fund, with a budget of $10 billion. The Fund was launched during the thirty-second annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (29-30 May).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/423/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/205 without vote [agenda item 58 (a)].


The General Assembly,
Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,
Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,
Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,
Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,
Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,
Expressing concern that, after the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and midway to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals target date, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority
of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa.

Encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past, and determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

2. Recognizes that during the implementation of the first Decade the international community adopted, inter alia, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which are mechanisms to focus national, regional and international efforts towards achieving poverty eradication;

3. Proclaims the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. Reiterates that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries;

5. Urges all Governments, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors to continue to pursue seriously the objective of the eradication of poverty;

6. Reaffirms that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

7. Reiterates the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. Stresses the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

9. Calls upon donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

10. Recognizes that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

11. Also recognizes that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

12. Further recognizes the importance of official development assistance as a source of financing development for developing countries, calls for the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report containing recommendations on how to make the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) effective, in support of the poverty eradication-related internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;


Also on 19 December, the Assembly, by decision 62/540, took note of the report of the Second Committee [A/62/423] on its consideration of eradication of poverty and other development issues.

Rural development

On 15 March, the Economic and Social Council, by decision 2007/213, included a discussion on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development as part of the work of its 2008 substantive session.

United Nations Alliance

Responding to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/42 [YUN 2005, p. 929], the Secretary-General in May submitted a report [E/2007/61] on the work of the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic, the two pilot countries. The report discussed the estab-
lishment of national mechanisms in those two countries and progress achieved in promoting partnerships with various stakeholders. It highlighted that reducing rural poverty was a key factor to achieving the mdgs in developing countries, and particularly low-income countries, due to their heavy dependence on agriculture and the fact that most of their populations resided in rural areas, and stated that the mission of the Alliance was to work as a catalyst and facilitator for the creation of partnerships; provide a platform for collaboration; and bring the results of those efforts to the attention of the international community through the Council. Madagascar and the Dominican Republic had established Alliance Madagascar and the Presidential Commission, respectively, as platforms to promote national and global partnerships for rural development. The work of the Alliances in both countries reached a critical juncture in the enhancement of partnership initiatives, and assistance for capacity-development was required. Alliance Madagascar activities were hampered by critical human, institutional and financial constraints, and closer cooperation between the Alliance and the UN system should help eliminate those constraints. In the Dominican Republic, the Alliance should be equipped effectively to mobilize partnerships and conduct reviews periodically on progress and challenges to facilitate partnerships for sustainable rural development.

To improve the effectiveness of the Alliances, the Secretary-General recommended that the capacities of national mechanisms in Madagascar and the Dominican Republic be enhanced through the provision of skills and knowledge aimed at promoting and sustaining effective vehicles for partnership development. An evaluation should be conducted of the capacities and gaps of the relevant national mechanisms to ensure that they performed as effective platforms in the promotion and fast-tracking of public-private partnerships. At the national level, Alliance Madagascar and the Presidential Commission should forge closer ties with development partners to ensure more coherent, demand-driven support. Partners involved in Alliance projects should be encouraged to share their success stories and best practices, including those in the framework of the annual ministerial review of the Council. Global advocacy should be strengthened to disseminate information to promote partnerships. The partnership offices in the UN system organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should also assist in advocacy and facilitate partnerships in their respective thematic areas linked to rural development.

Communications. On 8 June [E/2007/81], Madagascar and the Dominican Republic brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council President the launch of the Public-Private Alliance Foundation (New York, 18 May), with the aim of stimulating a greater awareness of partnerships against poverty, mobilizing resources from a wide range of actors and helping to achieve the mdgs. Its focus on partnerships and a business approach to development should be relevant to the annual ministerial review at the high-level segment of the 2008 session of the Council. The Foundation was a participant in the United Nations Global Compact [YUN 2000, p. 989], promoted South-South and triangular cooperation and encouraged pro-poor business, capacity-building and investments, commerce and related activities for sustainable development.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION
On 27 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2007/36 [draft: E/2007/L.37] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2003, which underlined the importance of alliances and partnerships among actors in different sectors for the promotion of integrated rural development,
Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/215 of 22 December 2005, entitled “Towards global partnerships”,
Recalling further its resolutions 2004/49 of 23 July 2004 and 2005/42 of 26 July 2005 on the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, endorsing Madagascar and the Dominican Republic, respectively, as first and second pilot countries for the Alliance,
Underlining the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,
Recalling the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policymaking,
Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 58/129 of 19 December 2003, entitled “Towards global partnerships”, and resolution 60/215, in both of which the Assembly, inter alia, identified the principles and objectives of such partnerships and welcomed the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations organizations, Member States and other stakeholders, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (United Nations Alliance),
Looking forward to the consideration of the issue of rural development by the Commission on Sustainable Development during its implementation cycle 2008/2009,
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Welcomes the support provided by Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, the private sector, non-governmental and civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders to promoting relevant efforts in the pilot countries of the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (United Nations Alliance);
3. Takes note of the recent launch of the Public-Private Alliance Foundation, as described in the letter dated 8 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations and the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council;

4. Welcomes the interest expressed and the initiative of the Governments of Angola and Ethiopia to serve as the third and fourth pilot countries for the United Nations Alliance;

5. Invites all Member States, the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to support the programmes and activities of the United Nations Alliance in its mission to promote sustainable rural development, consistent with relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

6. Stresses that activities of the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system at the country level in support of the United Nations Alliance should, whenever possible, be part of the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

7. Invites the Governments of Madagascar and the Dominican Republic, as pilot countries for the United Nations Alliance, with support from relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to conduct an evaluation of the existing capacities of the relevant mechanisms for promoting and fast-tracking public-private partnerships;

8. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions that have established public-private partnership offices to assist in advocacy and in facilitating partnerships for sustainable rural development;

9. Reaffirms its resolve to create an environment that is conducive to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty, and invites Governments of the pilot countries to further consult with the private sector with a view to strengthening public-private partnerships in support of the Millennium Development Goals;

10. Encourages national and international development partners involved with public-private partnerships to share their experiences and best practices;

11. Calls for further dissemination of information and strengthening of global advocacy in favour of the pilot countries;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 on the implementation of the work of the United Nations Alliance.

**Strengthening international partnership**

**CDP consideration.** At its ninth session (New York, 19-23 March) [E/2007/33], the Committee for Development Policy (cdp) considered the theme of strengthening the international partnership for effective poverty reduction and noted that, despite the international commitment to poverty reduction and the progress made towards developing a global partnership in support of national strategies, the framework for global partnerships was neither adequate nor effective and, to attain the MDGs, international partners would need to improve both the strategic framework and the working partnerships. Effective national strategies should be initiated by countries themselves and be comprehensive in their scope and long-term in orientation, and a major requirement would also be to increase the space for national ownership in initiating and implementing development strategies. Poverty reduction strategy papers contributed to improving aid effectiveness by unifying donors in support of poverty eradication and accelerating the release of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries funds. At the same time, the process revealed limitations, especially in two areas. First, it did not help the recipients in strengthening national ownership. Second, the conditionalities associated with the process restricted the range of policies designed to enhance pro-poor and pro-green growth.

To improve global partnerships by attaching less stringent conditionalities and giving more policy space to recipient countries, the Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council facilitate dialogue among States, and between them and IMF and the World Bank on the best ways of improving poverty reduction strategy papers; monitor, through its annual ministerial reviews, the implementation of the existing and improved poverty reduction strategy papers and the national development strategies advocated in the UN system, in order to identify the most effective modality of international partnership; monitor, through the Development Cooperation Forum, the fulfilment of the commitments endorsed by the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, as a means of improving the framework for international partnership, while leaving policy space for developing countries within a framework of mutual accountability; and urge its members to ensure that completion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations was consistent with the objectives of the international development agenda. Similarly, bilateral and regional trade negotiations between developed and developing countries and among neighbouring developing countries should be pro-development and should give greater prominence to the challenge posed by climate change to poverty reduction.

**Science and technology for development**

**Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

The Economic and Social Council, by decision 2007/208 of 2 March, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the Commission’s tenth (2007) session.
In accordance with that decision, the Council, by decision 2007/218 of 24 May, took note of the Commission’s report on its ninth (2006) session and encouraged the Commission to continue, within its mandate and agenda, consideration of such matters.


The Commission recommended a draft resolution and a draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. It brought to the Council’s attention a decision by which it took note of the unctad secretariat note on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken during the ninth session [E/2007/31 (dec. 10/102)]; and a decision by which it adopted a multi-year work programme, underpinned by a strong development orientation, to focus in each biennium on a specific theme related to the building of the information society and to examine the implications of science and technology for development [dec. 10/101]. The Commission chose as the substantive theme for its eleventh (2008) session “Development-oriented policies for a socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment”.

By decision 2007/240 of 25 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission’s report on its tenth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session.

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report on science and technology for development [A/62/136], the Secretary-General provided information on the status of implementation of Assembly resolution 60/205 [YUN 2005, p. 931] and reviewed the Commission’s work in agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management. The report also provided information on activities carried out by unctad and other organizations to assist developing countries to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in their national development plans and strategies, and presented an update on UN system-wide collaboration on biotechnology-related activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/421/Add.2], adopted resolution 62/201 without vote [agenda item 56 (b)].

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and 60/205 of 22 December 2005,
Recalling also its resolution 61/207 of 20 December 2006 and its reference to science and technology,
Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006,
Recognizing the vital role that science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,
Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,
Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,
Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and can enhance their productive capacity,
Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development, and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,
Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries in accessing the potential benefits of information and communications technologies,
Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,
Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,
Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in establishing a network of centres of excellence in science and technology for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,
Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,
Encouraging the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation,
1. Reaffirms its commitment:
   (a) To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;
   (b) To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;
   (c) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;
   (d) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;
   (e) To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;
   (f) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. Recognizes that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

3. Requests the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and to address within its mandate, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/46, the special needs of developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management;

4. Encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in their national development strategies;

5. Encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

6. Encourages Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

7. Encourages existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects by, where feasible, mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

8. Encourages the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to, and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society;

9. Calls for continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies.

Promoting the building of a people-centred information society

The Commission had before it an April report by the Secretary-General on promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society [E/CN.16/2007/2], which reviewed progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels, highlighting examples of good and effective practices, with a view to sharing best practices and lessons learned. Information was provided by relevant UN system entities tasked with WSIS implementation; by mid-February, the Secretariat had received responses from 16 entities. It also drew on the findings of the Commission Panel, on national reports contributed by members of the Commission and on other relevant literature. Given that the actual period of implementation had been about 14 months, most of the activities related to WSIS follow-up were still in the early stages of implementation. The report highlighted as much as possible implementation activities that involved multi-stakeholders at all levels. The Secretary-General recommended that Governments regularly review and update their national e-strategies to ensure that information and communication technologies (ICTs) bore on all components of national development, especially in facilitating the implementation of policies and measures aimed at re-
ducing social and economic disparities and in promoting human development. Governments should ensure a multi-stakeholder and bottom-up approach in the design, implementation and evaluation of ICT policies, taking into account the needs and perspectives of all groups in society, including the rural poor and disadvantaged communities, and ensure that national e-strategies included measurable targets and budgetary details as well as mechanisms for evaluation and assessment. The Secretary-General also recommended that international organizations, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and other development partners, support developing countries in their efforts to engage in consultative and participatory design and review of e-strategies; and continue efforts to measure the information society with a view to developing appropriate indicators that could be applied in the mid-term and long-term review of wsis implementation at the national, regional and international levels. UN entities tasked with action line facilitation were encouraged to continue regular consultations to review progress made and lessons learned and to share good practices. Special efforts should be made to facilitate the participation of civil society, especially from developing countries. The United Nations Group on the Information Society [YUN 2006, p. 1000] and the Commission should collaborate closely in the follow-up process and explore innovative ways of collaboration.

**Participation in the work of the Commission**

By decision 2007/215 of 26 April, the Economic and Social Council decided that NGOs and civil society entities that were not in consultative status with the Council but had received accreditation to wsis might participate, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established UN rules, in the next two meetings of the Commission, on the understanding that, in the meantime, the said organizations and entities would apply for consultative status with the Council and that, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31 [YUN 1996, p. 1360], the Committee on NGOs would be invited to consider such applications as expeditiously as possible.

Also on 26 April, by decision 2007/216, the Council decided that, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to existing rules of procedure, business sector entities, including the private sector, accredited to wsis might participate in the work of the Commission in accordance with the Council’s rules of procedure, and requested the Commission’s secretariat to propose to the Council lists of business sector entities, including the private sector, not accredited to wsis that might in the future express the wish to participate in the work of the Commission. The Council emphasized that the decision was taken on an exceptional basis, without prejudice to the established UN rules of procedure, in particular the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31, and that it should not be construed as a precedent, and decided to review, in 2010, the list and modalities of participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission.

**Information and communication technologies**

During 2007, the United Nations continued to consider how the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, could be made available to all, in keeping with recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 high-level segment [YUN 2000, p. 799], the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49], the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action [YUN 2003, p. 857], adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society [ibid.], and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda, adopted at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society [YUN 2005, p. 933].

**Follow-up to World Summit on the Information Society**

On 25 July [meeting 43], the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2007/31], adopted **resolution 2007/8** without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].

**Flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Noting the substantive theme of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for 2007, “Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, with a view to enhancing digital opportunities for all people”,

Recognizing the spontaneous flow of information towards the production of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Promoting the building of a people-centred,
development-oriented and inclusive information society: progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes,”

Acknowledging the importance of further refinement of the reporting process to facilitate the Summit follow-up,

Welcoming the development of the Summit cluster of events organized by action line facilitators and United Nations regional commissions in Geneva during the celebration of the World Information Society Day, 17 May 2007,

Welcoming also multi-stakeholder participation in the Summit and its follow-up as a constructive way of dealing with present and future challenges in building the information society, and recalling its decisions 2007/215 and 2007/216 of 26 April 2007,

Recalling that, while the multi-stakeholder approach should be used effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to complete the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development annually on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, including all e-applications;

2. Takes note of the request to the Secretary-General to start a process towards enhanced cooperation, as referred to in paragraphs 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the second phase of the Summit, and expects information thereon to be included in his annual report;

3. Requests the United Nations organizations acting as action line facilitators, the regional commissions, the main theme facilitators, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development and other entities, as appropriate, to submit to the secretariat of the Commission in a timely manner their respective reports, with their own executive summaries, as inputs for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission;

4. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to use to the extent possible the above-mentioned executive summaries in drafting the annual report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

5. Also requests the secretariat of the Commission to publish the reports submitted on its website, in their original language, as contributions to the next session of the Commission;

6. Requests the action line facilitators and the regional commissions to establish and keep open channels of communication with all stakeholders and include information on their implementation efforts in their respective reports, as appropriate;

7. Invites all stakeholders to establish and/or to keep open channels of communication with the action line facilitators and/or the regional commissions and to report to them on their implementation efforts, so that such efforts may be appropriately reflected and the relevant knowledge, practices and outcomes shared for the benefit of all;

8. Recommends that the Summit cluster of events be held annually in Geneva back to back with the World Information Society Day, observed on 17 May, and close enough to the session of the Commission to allow for the scheduling in the Commission agenda of an interactive dialogue with the regional commissions and another with the leading facilitating agencies, both of which should include the participation of all Summit stakeholders and serve as a linkage between implementation and follow-up.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/416], adopted resolution 62/182 without vote [agenda item 51].

Information and communication technologies for development

The General Assembly,


Recalling also the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, as endorsed by the General Assembly, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, and endorsed by the General Assembly,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

1. Reaffirms the strong development orientation of the outcomes of both the Geneva and the Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, and urges their full implementation;

2. Also reaffirms its request to the Economic and Social Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the Summit;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, the report being prepared for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as mandated by the Council in its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, on the status of implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the Summit.

UN role in ICT development

Global Alliance for ICT and Development. The first annual report [E/2007/CRP.4] of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID), launched by the Secretary-General in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1004], covered the period April 2006–May 2007. It outlined GAID’s efforts to establish its mission, objectives and areas of focus, described governance and advisory mechanisms and reviewed its framework for partnerships, events and outreach activities. In its first year, the Alliance focused on developing its networks and modalities of functioning, defining areas of priority, formulating its business plan, building collaborative links and raising awareness. It acquired strong brand recognition as an innovative and open UN initiative, bringing together all key
stakeholders around a single networking platform in support of UN development goals, and secured partnerships with many organizations from each of the key stakeholder groups and major UN agencies and entities. GAID launched three Flagship Partnership and two Flagship Advocacy Initiatives—to accelerate connectivity and access for Africa, enhance and scale up the tele-centre movement, create a Cyber Development Corps based on South-South and triangular cooperation, promote assistive technologies for persons with disabilities and advocate for free Internet accessibility for schools—and a number of Communities of Expertise. GAID was positioned to be a key contributor to the achievement of the wsis outcomes, especially by bringing multi-stakeholder input to the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

CEB consideration. At its thirteenth session (Rome, 19-20 March) [CEB/2007/3], the CEB High-level Committee on Management approved the ICT Network’s proposal to study the value of common services, focusing on data centres and on common global telecommunications. The Committee agreed to proceed in utilizing funding from organizations committed to the project.

At its fourteenth session (Palisades, New York, 20-21 September) [CEB/2007/6], the CEB High-level Committee on Management agreed to allocate the full budget originally estimated for the two studies on data centre operations and data communications to the study on common data communications, while pursuing the study on data centre operations through the business practices proposal process. The Chair of the ICT Network reminded the Committee that the data communications study required funding before it could proceed and urged all agencies to contribute.

Internet Governance Forum meeting. The Internet Governance Forum (igf), established in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1001] to support the Secretary-General in carrying out the wsis mandate with regard to convening a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on Internet governance issues, held its second meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (12-15 November). The mandate of the igf Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group was renewed in August to assist in preparations for the meeting. The Advisory Group met in Geneva (4-5 September).

**Economic and social trends**

According to the Trade and Development Report, 2007 [Sales No. E.07.II.D.11], published by UNCTAD, in 2007 the expansion of the world economy was expected to maintain its momentum for the fifth consecutive year, with a projected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3.4 per cent, compared to 4 per cent in 2006. As most of that moderate slowdown could be explained by a slow-down in the United States economy, GDP growth rates in other regions—including developing and transition economies—should remain the same. Deceleration of growth in the United States was due mainly to a reversal in the previously booming housing market, which had sustained private consumption. In the United Kingdom, an increasingly restrictive monetary policy and growing private indebtedness threatened to reduce domestic consumption. In Germany and Japan, where the growth acceleration was stimulated mainly by rising net exports and a recovery in fixed investment, private domestic demand remained fragile, despite rising employment and some success in reducing unemployment. East and South Asia continued to experience particularly high growth, owing to the strong performances of China and India. Other countries in East, South and South-East Asia benefited from the dynamism of India and China through strong export performances. The pace of economic expansion was also rapid in other developing regions and in the transition economies, including the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). That was also true for Africa as a whole, which was set to grow at 6 per cent in 2007, mainly driven by producers of oil and other commodities in strong demand on the global market. Latin America was expected to see a growth rate of slightly below 5 per cent, whereas West Asia was likely to complete a five-year period of growth rates above 5 per cent, mainly as a result of huge terms-of-trade gains in the oil-exporting countries of the region.

With respect to stimulating demand, some positive developments were under way. In China, economic policy sought to invigorate domestic consumption by increasing the incomes of low-wage earners and by improving the social security system. It also attempted to slow down investment and some exports through taxation and monetary policy. Among the high-surplus developed countries, expenditure switching was envisaged in Germany with the appreciation of the euro. In Japan, domestic consumption was picking up following several years of sluggishness, but due to speculative capital flows the yen was extremely weak, further fuelling exports.

From a medium-term perspective, the economic performance of developing and transition economies showed a notable improvement in their catch-up efforts with developed countries, although in absolute terms the differences in per capita income among them were growing. Overall per capita GDP growth over the period 1981-2007 had increased by 16 per cent in Africa and West Asia, and by 23 per cent in Latin America. Since 2003, Africa, West Asia and Latin America had achieved high and stable growth rates. The already rapid growth rate in East and South Asia had accelerated to reach a growth of more than 300 per cent since 1980. The transition economies had been the most rapidly growing economies since 2000, with a cumulative increase of 73 per cent in real per capita GDP; however, that recovery occurred after
such a deep depression that their average per capita GDP remained below the level of 1980.

The report stated that developing countries sought to integrate into the world economy in the expectation that this would help raise productivity levels, improve growth prospects and boost living standards through increased trade, technology and capital flows. It was recognized, however, that deriving such benefits from “external integration” was contingent on a number of preconditions, including a certain level of local production capacity, skills and technological sophistication, an array of market-supporting institutions and good infrastructure. Establishing such conditions was tied to a process of “internal integration” associated with expanding domestic markets, a shifting pattern of employment away from rural activities, and an increasing industrial division of labour leading to a dense network of input-output linkages between sectors. Strong institutions were also required to forge the socio-political consensus needed to mobilize and channel resources to productive investment and to manage trade-offs incurred along a dynamic development path, including those arising from increased external integration. Accordingly, encompassing political structures, closely associated with democratic governance, made up the final component of most development strategies. Each of those components posed major policy challenges, and finding the right blend to create a development circle was a challenge of development strategy.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007 [Sales No. E.07.II.C.2], jointly issued by UNCTAD and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), stated that the world economy registered another year of robust growth in 2006, marking the third consecutive year during which economic growth in many developing economies had reached its strongest pace in decades. Growth was also resilient in the least developed countries (LDCs), improving their prospects for fulfilling the MDGs. The year, however, also featured increased volatility in a number of market indicators for developing countries, especially in exchange rates, equity prices and the prices of primary commodities, although such volatility was transient and did not have an impact on their growth. The underlying momentum of the global economic growth also seemed to have been tapering off during the second half of the year. Gross world product was projected to expand by about 3.2 per cent, decelerating by about a half of one percentage point from 2006. The expected slowdown in the world economy for 2007, mainly driven by the United States and linked to the cooling down of the decade-long housing boom, was expected to cause an economy-wide slowdown during 2007 which would affect growth in the rest of the world. A slowdown in the United States, Europe and Japan would affect growth in developing countries, and a deceleration was expected in developing countries and economies in transition, but in varying degrees across countries. Even the exports of major developing countries such as China and India largely depended on the demand of the major developed countries; consequently, their economies would also be affected. The strong performance of the world economy in 2006 was broad-based. Nonetheless, there were still 47 developing countries which did not manage to reach a growth rate of 3 per cent in GDP per capita. That group included a large number of African countries, suggesting that economic development in those countries fell short of what would be needed to achieve the internationally agreed poverty reduction goals. The average economic growth of LDCs remained strong, at 6.9 per cent, during 2006, although it decelerated compared to the exceptional performance of 2005. Because of their narrow production and resource bases, the majority of LDCs remained vulnerable to weather shocks and highly dependent on developments in commodity markets, and further moderation was expected for 2007, albeit with important variations across the poorest countries.

Among developed economies, growth in the United States moderated significantly during the second half of 2006. GDP was expected to grow at the subdued pace of 2.2 per cent in 2007, lower than the 3.2 per cent estimated for 2006 and markedly below potential growth. Growth in Japan remained robust by the standards of a mature developed economy; however, it was expected to suffer a slowdown. Growth in Western Europe exceeded expectations in 2006. GDP in the euro area was expected to grow by 2.5 per cent, and rates of growth were also expected to be strong outside the euro area. The new members of the European Union maintained momentum in 2006, benefiting from an upturn in Western Europe and easy access to foreign financing. In addition to an impressive performance in the external sector, the contribution of domestic demand to growth became more important for Central European economies.

Among the economies in transition, in 2006 CEE maintained a strong pace. Growth in South-Eastern Europe regained dynamism, as GDP accelerated to 5.9 per cent. Among developing countries, in 2006 Africa’s growth maintained a strong pace, reaching almost 5.6 per cent. In East Asia, growth continued to be buoyant at 7.7 per cent, with the acceleration in China setting the pace for the region. While China posted a growth of over 10 per cent, the other economies also performed strongly and the region was headed for a growth slowdown in 2007 to a more sustainable yet continued strong pace of 7.0 per cent. Growth in South Asia remained strong at 6.7 per cent, India maintained a brisk pace, driving the regional average. Increased oil revenues buoyed growth in Western Asia, particularly in the oil-exporting countries. The decline in oil prices in the latter half of 2006 would have an impact on GDP growth prospects for 2007, but growth was still expected to remain at a strong
pace. Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was solid, with the South American countries as a group leading the region’s growth.

The World Economic and Social Survey 2007 [Sales No. E.07.III.C.1], entitled “Development in an Ageing World”, stated that population ageing could become a drag on economic growth unless anticipated declines in the labour force could be arrested or productivity increased. Ageing would affect the size and composition of the labour force and have implications for growth and the participation of older persons in society. Countries with low and decreasing fertility rates—mostly the developed economies and economies in transition but also an increasing number of developing countries—would face a slower increase or even a decline in the labour supply, with negative implications for output growth and for securing the well-being of the population at large.

Population ageing could also affect economic growth through changes in consumption, investment and savings patterns: economies with high levels of child or old-age dependency would have a relatively low national saving rate, while economies with large shares of working-age population would have a high saving rate. Population ageing would strain systems of old-age income security. Reduced labour participation and deteriorating health conditions increased the vulnerability to poverty at older ages, in particular for developing countries where most older persons were not insured against health risks or did not have access to formal systems of old-age income protection. Ageing would increase the demand for health and long-term care. For developed countries, the main concerns were with maintaining adequate levels and quality of care for an ageing population against a background of overall rising health-care costs. The challenge for developing countries was much larger, as many already faced a double health-cost burden: there might be a high prevalence of communicable diseases among significant parts of the population, while rapid population ageing was already putting increased pressure on scarce health-care resources.

**Human development**

The Human Development Report 2007/2008 [Sales No. 07.III.B.1], prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), discussed the issue of fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world. The report focused on the climate challenge; climate shocks: risk and vulnerability in an unequal world; avoiding dangerous climate change: strategies for mitigation; and adapting to the inevitable: national action and international cooperation. It stated that many of the world’s poorest people and most fragile ecological systems were forced to adapt to dangerous climate change, which could undermine international efforts to combat poverty. Global warming was already happening, world temperatures had increased by around 0.7°C since the advent of the industrial era and the increase rate was quickening. The rise in temperature was linked to increases in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and beyond a threshold of 2°C the risk of large-scale human development setbacks and irreversible ecological catastrophes would increase sharply. Countries varied widely in their contribution to the emissions of carbon dioxide driving up atmospheric stocks of greenhouse gases, and rich countries, with 15 per cent of world population, accounted for almost half of emissions. As to climate shocks eroding long-term opportunities for human development, the report noted that vulnerability to them was unequally distributed and climate disasters were concentrated in poor countries. From 2000 to 2004, some 262 million people had been affected by climate disasters annually, over 98 per cent of them in the developing world. Avoiding the threats posed by climate change would require an unparalleled collective exercise in international cooperation, and negotiations on emission limits for the post-2012 Kyoto Protocol commitment period should frame the global carbon budget. However, a sustainable global emissions pathway would be meaningful only if translated into practical national strategies. In its recommendations, the report stressed the need to develop a multilateral framework for avoiding climate change under the post-2012 Kyoto Protocol; put in place policies for sustainable carbon budgeting; and strengthen the framework for international cooperation.

The report ranked 177 countries in its human development index by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted per capita income, among other factors. Of the countries listed, 70 were in the high human development category, 85 in the medium category and 22 in the low category.


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**Development policy and public administration**

**Committee for Development Policy**

**Eighth session**

On 27 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) on its eighth session...
Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2004/66 of 5 November 2004,

Recalling also its decisions 2006/253 of 28 July 2006, 2006/266 of 15 December 2006 and 2007/212 of 15 March 2007 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session, as well as the letter dated 5 April 2007 from the Chairperson of the Committee for Development Policy to the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the report of the Committee on the least developed country status of Samoa,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Expressing its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed countries category should have its positive development disrupted or reversed, but should be able to continue and sustain its progress and development,

1. Requests the Committee for Development Policy to continue developing a consistent set of criteria that can be applied to all recommendations regarding the inclusion on and graduation from the list of least developed countries, with due account being taken of economic vulnerability as a structural characteristic of the least developed countries;

2. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee that Samoa be graduated from the list of least developed countries;

3. Recommends that the General Assembly take note of the recommendation of the Committee that Samoa be graduated from the list of least developed countries.

Ninth session

CDP, at its ninth session (New York, 19-23 March) [E/2007/33], addressed three major themes: climate change and sustainable development (see below); strengthening the international partnership for effective poverty reduction (see p. 850); and the procedures for inclusion of countries in and graduation from the list of least developed countries (LDCs) and the interactions with the countries concerned (see p. 862).

With regard to the first theme, CDP noted that climate change adversely affected socio-economic development, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries, that the response had been inadequate and there was an urgent need for raising the mitigation and adaptation efforts to an entirely different level. Post-Kyoto arrangements should adopt a simultaneous two-track approach, aiming at deep cuts of emissions by developed countries; and providing a more central role to developing countries by enabling them to grow faster and make the growth as de-carbonized as possible through the implementation of climate-friendly development strategies with technological and financial cooperation from developed countries. The Economic and Social Council should initiate a process for revision of the MDGs taking into account the role of climate change in development, and should contribute to the post-Kyoto process by providing a platform for a policy dialogue integrating climate within the development agenda, bringing together UN agencies, Governments, the private sector and other societal groups. CDP also stressed the need to develop a conceptual and policy framework combining fast economic growth with low carbon emissions for developing countries.

Regarding the second theme, CDP observed that the existing framework of the global partnership in support of national poverty reduction strategies was neither adequate nor effective, and stressed the importance for the donor community to allow aid recipient countries to be able to choose from a range of policies, the national policy space, in accordance with their economic, social and cultural conditions for effective growth and poverty reduction. The modality of global partnership and monetary and fiscal benchmarks agreed between the donor and recipient should be aligned with truly national strategies, and the international community should ensure that the Doha Round negotiations were consistent with poverty reduction objectives and that national trade policy in developed and developing countries did not conflict with development assistance priorities. The Council should seek improved international partnership for poverty eradication, and develop a framework that entailed less stringent policy conditionality on recipient countries.

As to the third theme, CDP provided an elaboration of the procedures to be used and clarified the steps to be followed in relation to the inclusion of countries in and graduation from the list of LDCs, consistent with practices approved by the Assembly and the Council. The proposed refinements to the procedures were intended to enhance and facilitate communications between countries under review and the Committee.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2007/34 [draft: E/2007/L.34] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its ninth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling also its resolution 2004/66 of 5 November 2004,

Recalling further the relevant paragraphs in the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2007,

1. Takes note of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its ninth session;
2. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee regarding the additional guidelines on the process for inclusion in and graduation of countries from the list of least developed countries, proposed in order to clarify and enhance the transparency of the existing procedures;

3. Takes note of the decision of the Committee to establish guidelines to monitor the progress of graduated countries, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 59/209.

Public administration


Regarding participatory governance and citizens’ engagement, the Committee encouraged States to instigate capacity-building initiatives and noted the need to continue to include the cross-cutting issues of governance and public administration in its agenda on the implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It urged the Secretariat to ensure that the normative, analytical and technical cooperation elements of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance continued to include participatory governance and citizen engagement in policy development, service delivery and public accountability, and advised the Secretariat to strengthen its partnership with other international and regional organizations.

As to the compendium of basic UN terminology in governance and public administration, the Committee stated that the glossary should proceed gradually from the most widely used terms, and noted the importance of keeping a certain degree of homogeneity and using the glossary as a bridge between cultures. The glossary could also be used to develop new concepts and terminology in the area of governance and public administration. Certain terms not included in the current list should be added, while terms that were controversial and political in nature could be avoided at the initial stage. While English should be used at the start, concepts as understood in other languages could be developed. The Committee welcomed the initial translation of the glossary into the other five UN languages, with the option of translating it into as many languages as possible at a later stage, and agreed that the Working Group should collaborate with the Terminology and Reference Section and other external bodies.

On the review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, the Committee encouraged the Secretariat to pursue cooperation with potential regional and subregional partners, to look for possibilities to translate materials into other UN languages and to produce summaries of its publications in plain language. While acknowledging the critical role of technical cooperation activities for the capacity-building of government officials and institutions, the Committee underscored the importance of nurturing close cooperation with other UN agencies. It also encouraged the Secretariat to increase the membership of the UN Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN), and expressed its appreciation for the commemoration of 23 June as UN Public Service Day and issuance of the UN Public Service Awards.

Concerning the public administration perspective on the theme of the 2007 AMR, the Committee highlighted the importance of: effective rule of law and a legal framework that encouraged productivity, entrepreneurship and competitive markets and sanctioned rent-seeking, monopolies and speculative risk-taking; efficient public institutions and processes that provided predictability of results; building a leadership capacity for creating consensus on a common agenda; and public servants with a level of professionalism that prevented delays in the implementation of key policies and programmes.

On 27 July, the Council deferred consideration of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration until its resumed substantive session (decision 2007/266).

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 60/34 [YUN 2005, p. 940], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report on public administration and development [A/62/283], which was based on the analysis of the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and activities carried out by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The UN agencies that provided inputs included the Economic Commission for Africa, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Secretary-General highlighted the activities that UN agencies carried out in supporting States to address those main factors in public administration and governance that facilitated the achievement of the MDGs and other international
development commitments. He stated that the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance was responsive to the developing needs of States by supporting standard-setting, undertaking policy and programme analyses in areas of historical concerns and new areas, and carrying out technical cooperation in emerging areas. The Programme was a reminder of the role of the State in economic and social development and supported a global network of public administration scholars and practitioners. The current form of that network was the UNPan portal. The United Nations had a key role in continuing to assist States to meet the public administration and governance challenges in development. The Secretariat should continue to provide intellectual and practical support towards reaching international consensus on governance and public administration, contribute towards strengthening the international network of governance and public administration actors in sharing knowledge and disseminating good practices electronically through UNPan and through regular meetings, and provide specialized technical assistance to States through strengthened partnerships for tackling specific challenges. Bearing those activities in mind, the priorities for the Secretariat included: the analysis of governance and public administration factors which affected and promoted economic and social development; the collection, analysis and dissemination of successful practices in governance and public administration in the achievement of the MDGs and other international development commitments through expanding the reach and scope of UNPan; the coordination among agencies within and outside the UN system to maximize the impact of their activities; the use of the UN Public Service Awards competition to highlight those governance and public administration innovations that were instrumental to implementing the international development agenda; and the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance through recognizing its contribution to development.

The report also reviewed the outcome of the Seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government (Vienna, 26-29 June), devoted to the theme of building trust in Government. The Forum adopted the Vienna Declaration, annexed to the report, which urged international development partners, including bilateral donors and the United Nations, to increase support to developing countries to strengthen their capacity in public administration and governance.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 4 October [meeting 48], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration [E/2007/44 & E/2007/SR.48], adopted resolution 2007/38 without vote [agenda item 13 (g)].

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixth session and dates, venues and provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council, Recalling its resolutions 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, in particular its reaffirmation of the need to deepen the participatory processes of government to ensure citizens’ engagement to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and 2006/47 of 28 July 2006, Concerned by the continuous marginalization of the poor and the disadvantaged in an era of a globalized world, which has led to decreasing trust in government by citizens, Recognizing that the implementation of the United Nations development agenda and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals can be greatly facilitated if citizens are involved in participatory mechanisms pertaining to the planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and accountability of socio-economic development policies and programmes and that these mechanisms of participatory governance help ensure efficiency and economic growth on the one hand and social justice on the other,

1. Takes note of the conclusions on this topic in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixth session;
2. Encourages Member States to reaffirm and deepen their use of participatory governance and citizen engagement in policy development, service delivery, and budgeting and public accountability with enabling mechanisms, including information and communications technology tools and other measures;
3. Requests the Secretariat to ensure that the normative, analytical and technical cooperation elements of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance continue to address participatory governance and to identify best practices;
4. Notes the work undertaken by the Committee on compiling and, where needed, conceptually defining basic United Nations terminology in governance and public administration with a view to achieving more coherence in intergovernmental discussions;
5. Takes note of the input by the Committee on the theme of the annual ministerial review to be held during the 2007 high-level segment of the Council and the proposals for themes for the same for 2008;
6. Requests the Secretariat to continue to expand the reach of the United Nations Public Service Awards on the United Nations Public Service Day as part of the effort to foster and disseminate excellence in public governance;
7. Also requests the Secretariat to expand the outreach of the portal of the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance at the regional and subregional levels with its participating members as a one-stop shop in promoting information-sharing, knowledge management and networking among public sector leaders around the world;
8. Further requests the Secretariat to continue its useful role in facilitating the implementation of the relevant action lines contained in the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society;
9. **Welcomes** the holding of the seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government in Vienna from 26 to 29 June 2007, and congratulates the Secretariat for its preparations, particularly for the high quality of the programme;

10. **Encourages** Member States to participate in and support the marking of the sixtieth year of the work of the United Nations in the area of public administration and development;

11. **Approves** the convening of the seventh session of the Committee from 14 to 18 April 2008;

12. **Also approves** the following agenda for the seventh session of the Committee:

1. Capacity-building for development, including post-conflict reconstruction of public administration and crisis/disaster management.

2. Compendium of basic United Nations terminology in governance and public administration.


4. Public administration perspective on the theme of the annual ministerial review of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.

**Evaluation**

In March, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) submitted a report [E/AC.51/2007/3] on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its forty-fourth session [YUN 2004, p. 852] on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development. According to the report, the triennial review concluded that the DESA Division for Public Administration and Development Management had taken adequate measures towards implementing the Committee’s recommendations. The flagship products and services of the Division, such as UNPAN, the United Nations Public Service Awards, the *World Public Sector Report* and the Global Forum on Reinventing Government, had all been strengthened. The Division had fostered partnerships with other UN entities and with external organizations and research institutions. The rationalization of its scope and focus had allowed the Division to tackle new and emerging issues. The Division had initiated cross-functional and cross-thematic cooperation between its branches, and important steps were taken for anchoring a methodology for identifying best practices. With the enhancement of UNPAN, the Division had become an important Internet source for information on public administration. Public finance management matters were addressed under new perspectives linked to public administration and citizen participation, opening new opportunities of collaboration with civil society and public institutions. However, OIOS stressed that consideration should be given to the allocation of adequate resources to the Financing for Development Office, whose work scope had been widened to include the provision of advisory services on operational activities in the field of tax administration. OIOS recommended the following measures: rationalizing the scope and focus of the Division; supporting international cooperation in tax matters in the Financing for Development Office; supporting public finance management work in the Division; enhancing the repertoire of best practices; developing an information strategy; enhancing UNPAN; enhancing linkages and synergies between functions and across themes; and strengthening collaboration among UN entities.

At its forty-seventh session (11 June–3 July) [A/62/16], CPC considered the OIOS report and recommended that the General Assembly take note of its findings.

**Groups of countries in special situations**

On 21 September, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, included in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, covering least developed countries and landlocked and transit developing countries, and allocated it to the Second Committee.

By decision 62/539 of 19 December, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee on groups of countries in special situations [A/62/422].

**Least developed countries**

The special problems of the officially designated least developed countries (LDCs) were considered in several UN forums in 2007, particularly in connection with the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 770] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 55/279 in July of that year [ibid., p. 771]. World leaders, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document [YUN 2005, p. 48], reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of LDCs, and urged all countries and the UN system to speedily meet the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme, particularly the official development assistance (ODA) target. CDP and UNCTAD also considered LDC-related issues.

**LDC list**

The number of countries officially designated as LDCs was 49. Cape Verde graduated in December. Maldives was recommended for graduation from the list; the
process would take place over a three-year period, as decided by the General Assembly in resolution 59/209 [YUN 2004, p. 854]. With regard to the Maldives, the Assembly, in resolution 60/33 [YUN 2005, p. 942], deferred until January 2008 the start of the three-year transition period for its graduation, following the destruction and damage caused by the 29 December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami to the country’s social and economic infrastructure and disruption of its development plans.


**Smooth transition strategy**

**CDP consideration.** At its ninth session (New York, 19-23 March) [E/2007/33], the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), which was responsible for adding countries to, or graduating them from, the LDC list, considered the procedures for inclusion of countries in and graduation from the list and the interactions with the countries concerned. It proposed additional guidelines for countries, in order to clarify the existing procedures and enhance their transparency, and requested the Economic and Social Council to endorse those guidelines as a further clarification of the framework laid out in Assembly resolution 59/209 [YUN 2004, p. 854] and earlier resolutions. Four aspects of the procedures constituted a refinement of the practice followed in the past: prompt notification of the country’s possible eligibility for inclusion and allowance for presentation of a written statement to the plenary of the Committee as soon as a preliminary determination of the country’s eligibility had been made; allowing the country to communicate its intention to accept or decline inclusion in the list of LDCs before the Committee made its recommendation for inclusion; preparation of an impact assessment study for possible graduating countries, which should serve as a supplement to the required vulnerability profile and provide additional information to the Committee for consideration at the second triennial review; and additional provisions for possible graduating countries to make oral presentations to the expert group meeting preparing for the second triennial review (after a first finding of eligibility) and written statements to the plenary of the Committee at the triennial review. CDP also agreed to continue its work on the methodology used in recent reviews and to undertake, for its 2008 session, a review of the criteria for the identification of LDCs, in preparation for the 2009 triennial review, and decided to establish guidelines to monitor the progress of graduated countries as provided for in Assembly resolution 59/209.

In response to Council decision 2007/212 (see below), CDP also examined the issues raised by Samoa regarding its LDC status. The Committee was briefed by Cape Verde on the country’s transition strategy following its impending graduation from the list of LDCs.

**Economic and Social Council action.** By decision 2007/263 of 27 July, the Economic and Social Council, recalling that CDP at its eighth session had recommended to include Papua New Guinea in the list of LDCs [YUN 2006, p. 1010], and noting that the country had declined the invitation to be included in that list, decided that Papua New Guinea should not be included.

**Graduation of Samoa**

On 15 March, the Economic and Social Council requested CDP to invite Samoa to present its case to the Committee at its ninth session, to examine the issues raised by Samoa and to submit a report containing its recommendations (decision 2007/212).

**Communication.** In response to that decision, the CDP Chairperson, in a 5 April letter to the Council President [E/2007/12], transmitted the Committee’s report on the LDC status of Samoa, including its recommendations. The report stated that Samoa, at its presentation to the Committee on 21 March, had emphasized its high vulnerability, the dependence of its progress upon aid flows and remittances and the need to retain external support for achieving greater resilience and lesser vulnerability. Recalling its earlier request to CDP, Samoa asked the Committee to include the economic vulnerability index (evi) as one of the two criteria that should be met by countries before their graduation from the list of LDCs. Samoa did not introduce any new information in its presentation nor did it challenge the information used by CDP at its 2006 triennial review [YUN 2006, p. 1010]. After further reviewing Samoa’s request, CDP concluded that agreement to it would entail a change in the principles of the criteria for the identification of LDCs, making a sufficiently low evi a necessary requirement, stressed that it was not in a position to change the criteria in force and to modify its recommendations contained in its 2006 report, and recommended Samoa for graduation. While understanding the concerns of Samoa, the Committee, if its recommendation to graduate Samoa was endorsed, stressed the importance of implementing the provisions of Assembly resolution 59/209 [YUN 2004, p. 854], in which the Assembly called upon the de-
Development and trading partners to support graduated countries in order to ensure a smooth transition, and urged the Council to continue considering the modalities through which that resolution was implemented.

By resolution 2007/35 of 27 July (see p. 858), the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that Samoa be graduated.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/97 [draft: A/62/L.33] without vote [agenda item 43].

Graduation of Samoa

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/35 of 27 July 2007 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session,

Taking into account its resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to endorse the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Samoa be graduated from the list of least developed countries.

Programme of Action (2001-2010)

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/211 [YUN 2006, p. 1012] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/41 [ibid., p. 1011], the Secretary-General submitted, in May, the fifth annual progress report [A/62/79-E/2007/63 & Corr.1] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010. The report showed continued strong economic performance by LDCs, with fewer countries, mainly Pacific islands, lagging behind. Social indicators were also improving, but overall socio-economic progress in African LDCs was compromised by continuing population growth driven by the highest fertility rate in the world. International support for health paid dividends in African LDCs, but malnutrition was worsening, particularly in rural areas where agriculture could hardly keep up with rapid population growth, environmental degradation and challenges associated with climate change. As a result, African LDCs increasingly faced food shortages, disruption of food supplies and famine.

The Secretary-General concluded that achieving the objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action required greater donor focus on enhancing the productive capacity of LDCs, particularly in agriculture. Donors should increase allocation of aid to infrastructure and technological development to increase the productivity and competitiveness of LDCs, improve aid effectiveness and increase their aid volumes to achieve the internationally agreed goals of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income as ODA to LDCs by 2010. Strong commitment by LDCs and their development partners to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action and full adherence to the principles of country ownership were crucial to further progress.

UNCTAD report. In July, the UNCTAD secretariat submitted a report on UNCTAD-wide activities in implementation of the Programme of Action [TD/B/54/2], which focused on research and policy analysis, technical cooperation and capacity-building. It noted that domestic and international financial constraints continued to undermine the sustainability and long-term impact of technical cooperation programmes in LDCs, and stressed the need for ensuring a predictable, sustainable and sound funding for technical cooperation and capacity-building activities and the possibility of developing multi-year programmes in specific areas. The report recommended that LDCs and their development partners enhance the quality of growth, which should be inclusive, participatory and sustainable; ensure strengthened and mutual accountability in development cooperation through an effective national monitoring and evaluation mechanism; and improve and orient the composition and allocation of development aid.

UNDP action. The Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, at its annual session (New York, 11-22 June) [E/2007/35], reiterated its call upon donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for United Nations Capital Development Fund programmes and activities in LDCs [dec. 2007/28].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2007/31 [draft: E/2007/ L.36] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)].

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which it decided to establish, under the regular agenda item entitled “Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits”, a regular sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,

...
Recalling further the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2004 on the theme “Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,

Recalling its resolution 2006/41 of 27 July 2006,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 61/1 of 19 September 2006 and 61/211 of 20 December 2006,

1. Takes note of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

2. Reaffirms that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership aimed at accelerating sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries;

3. Remains concerned over the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in some least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goal and targets of the Programme of Action;

4. Welcomes the continued economic progress of many least developed countries, which has led to the fact that a number of countries are proceeding towards graduation from the list of least developed countries;

5. Also welcomes the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including the elaboration of the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

6. Further welcomes the Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they committed themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;

7. Stresses that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfillment of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action;

8. Reaffirms that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

9. Underscores the fact that for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integrated approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions;

10. Urges the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management;

11. Urges development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

12. Reiterates its invitation to all development and trading partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance or technical assistance provided to the graduated country and to extend extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status, or reducing them in a phased manner;

13. Encourages the United Nations Resident Coordinator system to assist the least developed countries in translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities;

14. Encourages the Resident Coordinator system and country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners, to collaborate with and provide support to, as appropriate, the relevant development forums and follow-up mechanisms;

15. Stresses, within the context of the annual global reviews, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the need to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action sector by sector, and in this regard invites the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, consistent with their respective mandates, to report on the progress made in its implementation using quantifiable criteria and indicators to be measured against the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

16. Invites the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, at the Secretariat level, the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring and review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, including through such coordination mechanisms as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and
the Inter-agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators;

18. Reiterates the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, expresses, in this regard, its deep appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established for this purpose by the Secretary-General, invites donor countries to continue to support participation of at least developed countries in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including by contributing generously to the special trust fund, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced;

19. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure the monitoring of their development in the broader context of the world economy;

20. Looks forward to the elaboration and submission by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, of a detailed and clearly defined advocacy strategy aimed at raising awareness about the objectives, goals and commitments of the Programme of Action with a view to facilitating its effective and timely implementation;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit an analytical and results-oriented annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/211 [YUN 2006, p. 1012], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/62/322] containing the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010, which took account of the advocacy work undertaken by the United Nations, especially through the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in accordance with its mandate under Assembly resolution 56/227 [YUN 2001, p. 773]. The United Nations, in collaboration with other stakeholders, would undertake intensive, focused and sustained advocacy to raise awareness about the Brussels Programme of Action, with a view to accelerating its full and effective implementation by all partners. Efforts in the remaining three years of the Decade would seek to advance the Programme’s implementation by focusing on areas where progress had been lacking or limited. The strategic objective of advocacy actions would be raised awareness about the goals and commitments of the Programme of Action, with a view to facilitating its implementation by all stakeholders. To that end, actions would increase awareness about the shortfalls, challenges and opportunities in its implementation; and stimulate broader and stronger actions and partnerships, as well as further actions by the UN system in its support. Advocacy efforts would focus on advancing the implementation of the Programme of Action as a whole; financial resources for development; trade; infrastructure; health, HIV/AIDS and other diseases; employment; and environmental vulnerability. Actions would be funded within the existing resources of the Office of the High Representative and the UN departments, organizations, funds, programmes and other entities participating in the implementation of the strategy; and by mobilizing extrabudgetary resources, including funds raised from external sources by the Office and its implementing partners for carrying out specific advocacy actions.

Trade and Development Board action. The UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (TDB), at its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 1-11 October) [A/62/15 (Part IV) & Corr.1] adopted agreed conclusions [490 (LIV)] on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010. The Board urged stakeholders, particularly LDCs, donors and the UN system, to redouble their efforts to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action, recognized the importance of the development by LDCs of their productive capacities through capital accumulation, technological progress, structural change and good governance, and welcomed UNCTAD’s Least Developed Countries Report 2007: Knowledge, Technological Learning and Innovation for Development [Sales No. E.07.II.D.8] as a contribution to research and policy analysis. Emphasizing that science, technology and innovation were critical in LDCs, TDB stressed the need to identify national and international policies and measures that would promote technological learning and innovation, and to support communication strategies that would enhance awareness of the role of science, technology and innovation in development and poverty reduction. It also stressed that LDCs should assume primary responsibility for ownership and leadership in the design and implementation of their development policies and strategies, and urged them to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their strategies. The Board emphasized the importance of agricultural productivity growth in LDCs and invited development partners to increase ODA for agricultural research and extension services; underlined the need for national and international action to generate productive employment in non-agricultural sectors; and emphasized that LDCs should promote an enabling environment, sound macroeconomic policies and a stable, transparent and predictable business environment in order to benefit more from technology and innovation. The Board recognized the importance of UNCTAD in support of LDCs and urged the secretariat to strengthen its research capacity, particularly on LDC issues, and enhance synergies and complementarities between its research and policy analysis work and
technical cooperation and capacity-building. It also requested the secretariat to provide a report on cooperation and resource allocation within the secretariat in support of LDCs. The Board invited donors to earmark extrabudgetary contributions, expressed its appreciation to bilateral donors for their support and financial contributions to the UNCTAD Trust Fund for LDCs and invited them to regularly replenish and diversify the sources of funding.

Communication. On 3 August [A/62/216], Benin transmitted to the Secretary-General the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries: Time for Action, adopted at the Ministerial Conference of LDCs (Istanbul, 9-10 July) on the theme of making globalization work for LDCs (see p. 834), which recognized that national security and stability were essential for the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action in LDCs. In particular, LDCs in conflict, emerging from conflict and in post-conflict situations required enhanced international support to achieve the goals and targets of the Programme of Action in a timely manner. The Declaration welcomed the efforts of the Office of the High Representative and other UN agencies, funds and programmes, in advancing the implementation of the Programme of Action.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/422/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/203 without vote [agenda item 57 (a)].

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,
Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,
Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,
Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,
Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,
Recalling also its resolutions 61/211 of 20 December 2006 and 61/1 of 19 September 2006,
Reaffirming its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,
Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,
Taking note also of the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries: Time for Action, adopted at the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul on 9 and 10 July 2007 on the theme “Making globalization work for the least developed countries”,
Reaffirming that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;
2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;
3. Welcomes the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, including the elaboration of the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;
4. Reaffirms its commitment to the Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;
5. Remains concerned about the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address, within the time frame set by the Programme of Action, areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socioeconomic situation in some least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;
6. Welcomes the continued economic progress of many least developed countries, which has led to the fact that a number of countries are proceeding towards graduation from the list of least developed countries;
7. Stresses that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action;
8. Reaffirms that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;
9. Underlines the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integrated approach, a broader genuine partnership, coun-
try ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions encompassing:

(a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;
(b) Ensuring good governance at both the national and international levels as essential for the implementation of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action;
(c) Building human and institutional capacities;
(d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;
(e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;
(f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;
(g) Mobilizing financial resources;

10. Urges the least developed countries to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action through their respective national development framework, including, where they exist, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

11. Urges development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

12. Also urges development partners to continue to support the efforts of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries in order to better promote their further integration into the world economy, to sustain their development process and to avoid any disruption therein, including within the framework of the smooth transition strategy;

13. Encourages the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners to assist the least developed countries in translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities;

14. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations that have not yet done so to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action within their programmes of work as well as in their intergovernmental processes and to undertake within their respective mandates multi-year programming of actions in favour of the least developed countries;

15. Stresses, within the context of the annual global reviews, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the need to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action sector by sector, and in this regard invites the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, consistent with their respective mandates, to report on the progress made in its implementation using quantifiable criteria and indicators to be measured against the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

16. Also stresses the crucial importance of integrated and coordinated follow-up, monitoring and reporting for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

17. Requests, in this regard, the Secretary-General to ensure, at the Secretariat level, the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring and review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, including through such coordination mechanisms as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-agency Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goals Indicators;

18. Reiterates its invitation to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and other relevant multilateral organizations, to provide full support to and cooperate with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

19. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to include the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure the follow-up of their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their further marginalization;

20. Expresses its concern about the insufficiency of resources in the trust fund established for the participation of the least developed countries in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council;

21. Reiterates the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, expresses, in this regard, its deep appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established for this purpose by the Secretary-General, invites donor countries to continue to support the participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including by contributing in an adequate and timely manner to the special trust fund and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced;

22. Recalls paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action on holding a fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries towards the end of the current decade, requests the Secretary-General, in this regard, to prepare a note during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly outlining the modalities of such a conference, including its preparatory process, and also, in this regard, invites Member States to consider hosting that conference;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures for the implementation of the advocacy strategy, in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

24. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit an annual analytical and results-oriented progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.
Island developing States


Commission on Sustainable Development consideration. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its fifteenth session (New York, 12 May 2006, 30 April–11 May 2007) [E/2007/29], considered policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change, and noted that climate change posed especially serious challenges to sustainable development of small island developing States and threatened the very existence of some of them. Speakers from those countries called for the Commission to dedicate specific attention to implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy during each policy year, in addition to the review year sessions. Ministers from small island developing States and their development partners supported the establishment of regional risk insurance facilities and other innovative financing modalities. The Chairperson’s proposed decision text included actions on a number of issues, such as fully and effectively implementing the commitments, programmes and targets adopted in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy; promoting the implementation of partnership initiatives; encouraging the relevant UN system organizations to further incorporate the Mauritius Strategy; and urging donors, financial institutions and mechanisms to simplify and improve access to financial resources for small island developing States.

Report of Secretary-General. In a 28 August report [A/62/279] submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/196 [YUN 2006, p. 1017], the Secretary-General described progress made towards the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. He included information about the review conducted by the Commission on Sustainable Development (see above), initiatives to incorporate the Strategy in the development plans of small island developing States and to mobilize resources for regional and national programming, measures undertaken by UN system agencies and activities implemented by the wider international community. The Secretary-General concluded that attention would be given to increase awareness among stakeholders of the Mauritius Strategy; to enhance national capacity for its more effective assimilation and mainstreaming; to strengthen regional organizations and mechanisms with a view to improving their support for national efforts; and to promote more appropriate responses and focused support within the UN system agencies and the donor community. Support for national sustainable development strategies would continue in the Pacific, and the possibility of pursuing similar projects in other regions would be explored. Work on the design of a framework for mainstreaming and monitoring the Strategy would continue, with a view to promoting its coordinated implementation. Consideration would also be given to improving coherence in the delivery of assistance from the UN system and the donor community, and particular attention would be given to the capacity challenges that small island developing States continued to face in their efforts to implement the Strategy.

Expert meetings. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs convened an expert group meeting (New York, 27-28 April) to consider a comprehensive framework for monitoring progress in mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy and to determine the main challenges encountered in the process.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific convened an expert group meeting (Suva, Fiji, 6-7 June) to discuss and exchange views on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in Pacific small island developing States, with a view towards identifying priority issues and key challenges.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/419/Add.2], adopted resolution 62/191 without vote [agenda item 54(b)].

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,
Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,
Reaffirming also 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 (“Mauritius Strategy for Implementation”), adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action
for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 14 January 2005,

Recalling its resolutions 59/311 of 14 July 2005, 60/194 of 22 December 2005 and 61/196 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Welcoming the decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session to devote one day of its review sessions to the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, focusing on that year’s thematic cluster, as well as on any new developments in the sustainable development efforts of small island developing States using existing modalities, and to request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its review session on progress in and obstacles to sustainable development in small island developing States, including recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

Welcoming also the convening of one half-day session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/196, to discuss policy options for addressing the barriers and constraints facing small island developing States in the four thematic areas of the session, taking into account the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation conducted during the fourteenth session of the Commission,

Reaffirming that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, that the effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some of those States and that, therefore, adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise remains a major priority for small island developing States,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Welcomes the renewed commitment of the international community to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
3. Urges Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely action for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes;
4. Calls for the full and effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and targets adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and encourages small island developing States and their development partners to continue to consult widely in order to develop further concrete projects and programmes for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;
5. Calls upon the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change;
6. Encourages the implementation of partnership initiatives, within the framework of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;
7. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as called for in its resolutions 57/262 of 20 December 2002, 58/213 A of 23 December 2003, 59/229 of 22 December 2004, 59/311, 60/194 and 61/196, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that the Unit is sufficiently and sustainably staffed without delay to undertake its broad range of mandated functions with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, within existing resources, including by redeploying resources;
8. Calls upon the Secretary-General to prepare a report during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly on actions taken to implement paragraph 7 of the present resolution;
9. Calls for the provision of new and additional voluntary resources for the revitalization of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;
10. Requests the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to intensify efforts aimed at mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in their work programmes and to establish a focal point for matters related to small island developing States within their respective secretariats to support coordinated implementation of the programme of action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;
11. Calls upon the international community to enhance its support for the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity as a set of actions to address characteristics and problems that are specific to islands, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting, in 2006;
12. Decides to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly;
13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;
14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.

Landlocked developing countries

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 61/212 [YUN 2006, p. 1019],
the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/62/226] on the status of preparations for the midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries. The Almaty Programme of Action was adopted by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 875].

The report reviewed the activities undertaken by the United Nations to ensure effective preparation for the midterm review, to be held in 2008, and concluded that the review was an important exercise aimed at determining what had been achieved, what could be done and how the second half of the implementation period could be effectively utilized to assist landlocked developing countries. The Secretary-General recommended that the international community give particular importance to the process and ensure active participation. The implementation of the Programme of Action should be considered in the context of the international efforts to achieve the MDGs and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and the Assembly should devote two days of plenary meetings during its sixty-third (2008) session to the midterm review, which should be preceded by a two-day preparatory meeting to enable States to consider the final outcome document. The Office of the High Representative, in close consultation with the relevant UN system organizations, should prepare a draft outline of the outcome document to facilitate the intergovernmental consultations. The midterm review should not be seen as a renegotiation of the Programme of Action, and the outcome should be a focused document aimed at galvanizing partnerships among landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and their development partners, as well as public-private partnerships, at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels in order to ensure full and timely implementation of the Programme of Action.

Communications. On 30 July [A/62/256 & Corr.1], Mali transmitted to the Secretary-General the report of the Thematic Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development (Ouagadougou, Mali, 18-20 June), which was held as part of the preparatory process for the midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The main stakeholders of the Programme of Action, namely landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries, donor countries and international, regional and subregional organizations, participated in the Meeting. The Meeting resulted in the adoption of a Chairman’s summary, which made an assessment of the situation and reviewed mobilization of financial resources, subregional and regional cooperation, enabling environment, and the role of international financial and development institutions and international organizations. It identified constraints suffered by countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, established priorities and proposed actions that should be considered in the preparation process of the midterm review.

On 9 October [A/C.2/62/4], Mongolia transmitted to the General Assembly President the report of the Thematic Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 30-31 August), which was held as part of the preparatory process for the midterm review and was attended by the main stakeholders of the Programme of Action. The Meeting resulted in the adoption of a Chairman’s summary, which assessed the situation, reviewed efforts to accelerate the implementation of priority 3 of the Programme of Action, on international trade and trade facilitation, and analysed the support of the international community.

On 30 October [A/C.2/62/9], Mongolia transmitted to the Assembly President the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, adopted at the Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries (Ulaanbaatar, 28-29 August), which addressed the particular needs and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries, as well as ways and means to ensure their effective participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. During the Meeting, participants encouraged international organizations to continue their analytical work on international trade and make the research results available to the landlocked developing countries in order to enhance their analytical capacity and help them design and implement appropriate trade policies and promotion measures, including trade development strategies and formulation of their common position within the framework of the WTO negotiations.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 19 December [meeting 78], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/62/422/Add.2], adopted resolution 62/204 without vote [agenda item 57 (b)].

**Groups of countries in special situations:**

**specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries:**

**outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005 and 61/212 of 20 December 2006,
Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling further the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round,

Taking note of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration adopted at the Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Ulaanbaatar on 28 and 29 August 2007,

Recalling resolution 63/5 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of 23 May 2007,

Recalling also the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 10 July 2007,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Recognizing also that cooperation between transit countries and landlocked developing countries results in better transit transport systems,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and assisting them in achieving their development priorities, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

Recalling the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development, as many landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;

2. Also takes note of the outcome documents of the Thematic Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development, held in Ouagadougou from 18 to 20 June 2007, and of the Thematic Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation, held in Ulaanbaatar on 30 and 31 August 2007;

3. Reaffirms the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

4. Also reaffirms that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe their legitimate interests;

5. Encourages donors and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate technical and financial assistance in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and inter-regional projects and programmes, and to also provide technical assistance in trade facilitation;

6. Emphasizes that the development and improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

7. Recalls that landlocked and transit developing countries have the primary responsibility for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, as envisaged in its paragraphs 38 and 38 bis;

8. Emphasizes that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors should be strengthened, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations;

9. Decides to hold, from within existing resources, two days of high-level plenary meetings devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in New York, on 2 and 3 October 2008, to be chaired by the President of the Assembly;

10. Stresses that the midterm review should provide the international community with an opportunity to make the assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and agree on what needs to be done to further galvanize global partnerships to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their effective participation in international trade and the world economy;

11. Requests the President of the General Assembly to convene consultations during the sixty-second session of the Assembly to facilitate the preparation of an outcome for the midterm review and to finalize its organizational aspects, if necessary;

12. Requests the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in close consultation with the relevant United Nations system organizations, to prepare a draft outline of the outcome document of the midterm review so as to facilitate the intergovernmental consultations, taking into account the outcomes of the thematic meetings, the regional meetings and the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

13. Also requests the Office of the High Representative, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action, to coordinate the preparatory process, further requests that United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, and relevant international and regional organizations,
within their respective mandates, provide necessary support and substantive inputs to the review process, and in this regard takes note of the organizational framework for the midterm review prepared by the Office of the High Representative in cooperation with the main stakeholders;

14. **Encourages** donors and the international financial and development institutions as well as private entities to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

15. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, including recommendations, with a view to the preparation for the midterm review meeting and the way forward;

16. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled “Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation”.

**Poor mountain countries**

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/198 [YUN 2005, p. 1156], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/62/292] on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions, which contained an analysis of future challenges and suggestions for consideration by the Assembly on ways to promote sustainable development in mountain regions within the existing policy context.

The report noted that, despite increased recognition of mountain issues and tangible results, there were still significant constraints to alleviating poverty, averting environmental degradation and attaining sustainable development in mountain regions. Mountain communities and their environments remained vulnerable to growing demands for water and other natural resources, expanding tourism, greater rates of out-migration, disproportionate incidences of conflict and the pressures of industry, mining and agriculture. At the same time, the threats and consequences of global climate change provided new challenges that required urgent attention and concerted efforts. There was a need for higher levels of funding and investment in mountain areas, enhanced coordination and collaboration, and a stronger enabling environment with more supportive laws, policies and institutions. The Assembly should recommend that Governments encourage the continuation of existing, or the establishment of new, national committees or similar institutional arrangements and mechanisms, to strengthen intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable mountain development; assist developing countries and transition economies to formulate and implement strategies and programmes; encourage greater engagement by civil society and the private sector; support the efforts of the Mountain Partnership, launched in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1053], and encourage the involvement of Governments, civil society and the private sector; support the development and implementation of communication and advocacy programmes, as well as education, extension and capacity-building programmes; enhance awareness of the effects, risks and hazards of climate change in mountain areas and develop adaptation measures, approaches and policies; foster the strengthening of the role of mountain women in planning and decision-making processes and ensure that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge be recognized in development policy and planning; promote investment and funding for sustainable development, initiatives for integrated trans-boundary cooperation, as well as strategies and approaches for sustainable activities in mountain ranges; and support efforts to integrate management considerations into comprehensive policy approaches.

The Assembly, in resolution 62/196 of 19 December (see p. 1073), invited Governments, the UN system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, relevant UN conventions and their funding mechanisms and relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to provide support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions, particularly in developing countries.