Foreword

Those who cannot learn from history are likely not only to misunderstand the present but also, therefore, to hinder, if not to endanger, the future. This is as valid for the development of the multilateral United Nations system of organized international co-operation to promote peace and economic and social progress in larger freedom as it is for other human endeavours.

To chart the course of the activities of the United Nations, to evaluate their impact in the political, economic, social and humanitarian spheres, to assess their role in the progress of dependent peoples towards independence or in the development of international law, there is accordingly a need for an authoritative, concise and coherent account, year-by-year, of the Organization's work as a basis for sound perspective and, if required, for corrective action for the future.

The annual Yearbook of the United Nations series is designed to help meet that need.

The principal reference work of the United Nations, it is extensively used as an essential working tool by those engaged in a serious study and analysis of the international organization process and its role in today's complex world of rapid change, whether they be diplomats or other public officials, whether they be scholars, writers, teachers and teachers of teachers, journalists, librarians or others requiring readily assimilable knowledge about the United Nations family.

The Yearbook is the only single-volume series in which there is to be found an annual, fully-indexed, comprehensive, succinct account—easy to consult because it is organized by subject—of the very many discussions, decisions and activities of the United Nations and the inter-governmental organizations related to it. Also contained in each volume of the series is an organized bibliographical guide—arranged by topic and sub-topic and giving the full texts of resolutions of the principal United Nations deliberative organs—to the considerable mass of primary source material consisting of records and documents prepared to meet the essential parliamentary needs of these deliberative organs and their extensive network of subsidiaries.

Besides being a valuable reference source, the Yearbook series, as a continuing, organized source of information, is intended to contribute towards developing informed understanding of the facts and the problems involved in the progress of international co-operation through the multilateral United Nations system.

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Secretary-General