INCE its creation in 1945, the United Nations has achieved virtual universality in its membership. It has also expanded the scope and nature of its activities far beyond what was envisaged by the signatories of the Charter. Today, the concerns of the world Organization encompass almost every area of human endeavour, and the international community increasingly looks to the United Nations for solutions to new and demanding problems.

The Yearbook of the United Nations gives a comprehensive account of the response of the United Nations to these challenges. It is a chronicle of the initiatives undertaken and the approaches adopted, and clearly demonstrates the complexity as well as the interdependence of the issues involved. This record of one year's striving for peace and justice can serve as a valuable guide to all those who wish to understand the workings of human society as mirrored in the United Nations.

KURT WALDHEIM
Secretary-General