Foreword

It has been said that a fact is the sweetest dream labour knows. The Yearbook of the United Nations, a summary of the actions of the world Organization within a single year, is a book of facts. It is also a book of dreams; not vacuous or ephemeral ones but practical visions for a secure life in a world of freedom with justice, where human dignity is honoured, where economic and social progress are sustainable, where natural and human resources are not squandered on weapons, and where peoples fulfil their determination, in the words of the United Nations Charter, “to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours”.

The Yearbook is also a reflection of labour in pursuit of the dream of a world at harmony with itself. It is the record of multilateral efforts to deal with the pressing concerns of our times, such as disarmament, human rights, the settlement of regional conflicts, economic and social development, international trade, the environment, drug abuse control, adequate shelter and health care, humanitarian assistance for refugees and disaster relief.

In 1985, the United Nations commemorated the fortieth anniversary of its founding. In looking back over four decades of activity, there was general agreement that the world body was an essential instrument through which the international community could make a collective effort to solve common problems.

As nations return to the precepts of multilateralism, and interest in the United Nations rekindles, the Yearbook of the United Nations continues to be an invaluable reference work.

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