

Chapter XII

Social and cultural development, crime prevention and human resources

The United Nations continued in 1990 to disseminate data on the world social situation, particularly in regard to the developing countries, in order to promote policy measures based on accurate knowledge of the specific interrelationships among economic growth, human development and social progress in the achievement of overall development. It moreover continued to examine the question of social justice and ways in which it could be achieved for all.

A major event of the year was the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana, Cuba, in August/September. It adopted 28 substantive resolutions and recommended to the General Assembly 13 draft instruments and resolutions that emerged from its deliberations on international co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice; criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures; effective national and international action against organized crime and terrorist criminal activities; and policy approaches to delinquency prevention, juvenile justice and protection of the young.

The Assembly welcomed the Congress resolutions and instruments and invited Governments to be guided by them when formulating legislation and policy directives. In adopting the Congress recommendations on international co-operation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development, the Assembly called for the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as the only professional and specialized entity within the UN system with overall responsibility for its crime prevention and criminal justice programme, to be strengthened in terms of both human and financial resources. On the basis of a report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Assembly established an intergovernmental working group to elaborate proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to suggest how it could be implemented.

In taking note of the Secretary-General's report on developing human resources for devel-

opment and of the human-centred approach to the development process set out in the Human Development Report 1990, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Assembly called on the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in human resources development, in accordance with their national priorities and plans, through, among other means, operational activities of the UN system. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to explore new modalities for greater interfacing among autonomous UN research bodies in order to enhance co-operation among them. It also appealed for financial contributions to the Endowment Fund of the United Nations University and to the University for Peace to ensure their smooth operation.

In observance of 1990 as International Literacy Year, the World Conference on Education for All was held in Jomtien, Thailand, in March. Sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, the Conference adopted the World Declaration on Education for All and a Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs.

Social and cultural development

Social aspects of development

World social situation

In March, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a supplement [A/45/137-E/1990/35] to the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation [Sales No. E.89.IV.1]. Prepared in response to Council resolution 1989/72 [YUN 1989, p. 602], the supplementary report provided an overview of general trends in the main indicators of the social situation and living standards world wide in the 1980s—output, consumption and investment per capita, government expenditure on social services, literacy and education levels, nutrition levels, infant mortality and life expectancy at