As we mark the 60th year of the publication of The Yearbook of the United Nations, I am delighted to contribute my first foreword to this indispensable and authoritative reference work on the Organization. This milestone edition documents the results of the 2005 World Summit, an unprecedented gathering of more than 150 Heads of State and Government who collectively took bold decisions in the areas of security, human rights, United Nations reform and the Millennium Development Goals.

The 2005 World Summit pledged to “enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system.” It set the stage for major advances, including the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, the adoption of a global counter-terrorism strategy, and the establishment of a Central Emergency Response Fund to expedite humanitarian relief. The vision forged in 2005 continues to animate our work as we move, in the phrase of this Yearbook’s theme, “towards development, security and human rights for all.”

Ki-moon Ban

Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, December 2007