the year ended 31 December 2009 [A/65/5/Add.6], the Board of Auditors recommended that UNEP re-examine the extent of its control over MEA funds, with a view to assessing the appropriateness of their inclusion in its financial statements.

The Executive Director said that for UNEP to continue managing MEA human, financial and physical resources, those MEA conferences of parties that had qualified the Executive Director's authority—while enhancing that of the executive head of the relevant MEA, renaming and/or establishing a distinct legal identity for the immediate MEA secretariat and establishing requirements that conflicted with UN and UNEP regulations, rules and related administrative instructions—would need to amend those decisions to clearly recognize the authority of the Executive Director and of UN and UNEP regulations, rules and related administrative instructions, or else UNEP would need to establish a clear legal and administrative distinction between itself and MEA resources. In the event that did not happen, MEA secretariats would have to undertake significantly more administrative tasks and/or enter into direct administrative relationships with UN and/or other service providers. Conferences of parties would also need to approve MEA budgets that enabled a managerial and administrative separation from UNEP. MEAs would have to determine whether they were to retain UN-affiliation beyond UNEP and whether to apply and/or utilize UN regulations and administrative arrangements. The legal and administrative separation of UNEP and UNEP-administered MEAs would also entail additional costs.

Note by Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolutions 64/73 [YUN 2009, p. 1016], 64/202 [ibid., p. 1023] and 64/203 [ibid., p. 1019], the Secretary-General, in an August note [A/65/294], transmitted reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see below), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (see p. 1025), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1022).

Climate Change convention

As at 31 December, 193 States and the European Union (EU) were parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was opened for signature in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 681] and entered into force in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 938].

At year's end, 191 States and the EU were parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1048], which entered into force in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1146]. San Marino and Somalia became parties during the year. There were 23 parties to the 2006 amendment to annex B of the Protocol [YUN 2006, p. 1220], which had not yet entered into force. China, Egypt, Morocco and Ukraine deposited their instruments of ratification in 2010.

The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Cancún, Mexico, 29 November–10 December) [FCCC/CP/2010/7 & Add.1,2 & Corr.1] adopted the Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention. The Agreements set out a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, by which parties agreed to work towards a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050, and to cooperate in achieving the peaking of global and national greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible. The Agreements also established the Cancun Adaptation Framework to enhance action on adaptation, including through international cooperation, and an Adaptation Committee to promote coherent implementation of the enhanced action on adaptation. It also dealt with national mitigation commitments or actions by developed country parties, including the establishment of a registry to record mitigation actions seeking international support. The Agreements addressed policy approaches and positive incentives related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; approaches to enhance the cost-effectiveness of and to promote mitigation actions; economic and social consequences and response measures; and finance, technology and capacity-building. It established a Green Climate Fund and a Standing Committee to assist the Conference of the Parties in exercising its functions with respect to the Convention's financial mechanism. Regarding technology development and transfer, a Technology Mechanism was established, comprising a Technology Executive Committee and a Climate Technology Centre and Network. The Agreements also addressed capacity-building and the periodic review of the adequacy of the long-term goal to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The Conference of Parties also adopted decisions on, among other matters, the fourth review of the financial mechanism; additional guidance to the GEF assessment of the Special Climate Change Fund; further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, and extension of its mandate; progress on enhancing implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme on article 6 of the Convention; national communications from par-