About the 2011 edition of the Yearbook

This sixty-fifth volume of the Yearbook of the United Nations continues the tradition of providing the most comprehensive coverage available of the annual activities and concerns of the United Nations.

The present volume recounts the work of the United Nations in 2011 as it responded to large-scale humanitarian crises amid political and social turmoil, especially in North Africa and the Middle East. In addition to detailing the many United Nations contributions worldwide to peacekeeping, supporting national elections, protecting human rights and helping those affected by natural disasters, this Yearbook volume articulates how the Organization addressed during the year such issues as sustainable development and poverty eradication; climate change; HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases; youth; desertification, land degradation and drought; and nuclear safety and security.

Coverage of economic and social questions in Part Three of the Yearbook has been restructured. Chapter IX now focuses on “Social policy, cultural development and human resources development”, including youth and ageing persons; Chapter XI is exclusively devoted to issues of “Children”; and Chapter XIV collectively addresses “International drug control and crime prevention”.

Readers can locate information by using the Table of Contents, the Subject index, the Index of resolutions and decisions and the Index of Security Council presidential statements. The volume also features six appendices: Appendix I comprises a roster of Member States; Appendix II reproduces the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice; Appendix III presents the structure of the principal organs of the United Nations; Appendix IV provides the agenda for each session of the principal organs in 2011; Appendix V gives the addresses of United Nations information centres and services worldwide; and Appendix VI lists the addresses of the specialized agencies and other related organizations of the UN system with their respective heads as at 2011.

Structure and scope of articles

The Yearbook is subject-oriented and divided into five parts covering political and security matters; human rights issues; economic and social questions; legal issues; and institutional, administrative and budgetary matters. Chapters summarize pertinent UN activities, including those of intergovernmental and expert bodies, as well as major reports and, in selected cases, the views of States in written communications.

Activities of UN bodies. The Yearbook places the major activities of the principal organs of the United Nations and, on a selective basis, those of their subsidiary bodies in a narrative context of consideration, deliberation and action. The texts of all resolutions and decisions of a substantive nature adopted in 2011 by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are reproduced or summarized under the relevant topic. Such texts are preceded by procedural details giving the date of adoption, meeting number and vote totals (in favour–against–abstaining), if any, and an indication of their approval by a sessional or subsidiary body prior to final adoption. The texts are followed by details of any recorded or roll-call vote. Substantive action by the Security Council is analysed and brief reviews of the Council’s deliberations given, particularly in cases where an issue was taken up but no resolution was adopted.

Major reports. Most reports of the Secretary-General in 2011, along with those of main United Nations committees, regional and functional commissions, and Special Rapporteurs, as well as selected reports from other UN sources, such as seminars and expert and working groups, are summarized.

Views of States. Written communications sent to the United Nations by Member States and circulated as documents of the principal organs have been summarized, in selected cases, under the relevant topics.

Multilateral treaties. Information on signatories and parties to multilateral treaties and conventions has been taken from the series Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General (ST/LEG/SER/E) (see treaties.un.org).

Terminology

Formal titles of bodies, organizational units, conventions, declarations and officials are normally given in full on first mention in each main section. They are also used in resolution/decision texts, as well as in the Subject index under the key word of the title. Short titles, abbreviations or acronyms are used in subsequent references in the main text.

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