

Hundred and sixty-first Session

161 EX/37
PARIS, 2 April 2001
Original: English

Item 8.1 of the provisional agenda

**RECENT DECISIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF RELEVANCE TO THE WORK OF UNESCO**

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraph 3 of 103 EX/Decisions 6.1-6.2 and 124 EX/Decision 6.1, the Director-General informs the Executive Board of decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of interest to UNESCO that have been adopted or have taken place since the 159th session of the Board.

In accordance with 103 EX/Decisions 6.1-6.2, paragraph 4(b), the Director-General has decided to include in the agenda the sub-items mentioned in the introduction to this document. Other decisions and activities of relevance to UNESCO but that do not require a decision by the Board are included in a separate document (161 EX/INF.9) for information.

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
Overview of the 55th session of the General Assembly	1
A. The United Nations Millennium Summit: Outcome and follow-up	2
B. International Year of Freshwater	8

ANNEX I

Composition of the United Nations major bodies and appointments to key posts

ANNEX II

List of international Days, Years and Decades

INTRODUCTION

Overview of the 55th session of the General Assembly

1. The fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly (September-December 2000), designated by an earlier General Assembly resolution as the Millennium Assembly is for ever marked by the historic Millennium Summit that took place from 6 to 8 September in New York. The Millennium Summit was the largest ever gathering of Heads of State and Government, adopting the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2)) defining the global priorities for the years to come in order to guide the work of the United Nations system's organizations, including UNESCO. This report concentrates mainly on the Declaration and its follow-up and UNESCO's role in its implementation.

2. The rest of the session, though less visible, adopted a large number of resolutions, some of which are of direct relevance and interest to UNESCO. One such resolution is reflected in this report (International Year of Freshwater (resolution 55/196)). Several other important General Assembly resolutions will be considered under separate agenda items at this session of the Board: resolution 55/23 on Dialogue among Civilizations (item 3.1.1 entitled "Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference"); resolution 55/47 on International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (item 3.6.1 entitled "Report on the Progress made by UNESCO in the Implementation of the Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace and on Cooperation within the United Nations system in this field"); resolution 55/13 on Review of the problem of HIV/AIDS (item 3.6.2 entitled "UNESCO's contribution to the United Nations system Strategic Plan of Action for HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005"); resolution 55/91 on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (item 3.4.1 entitled "UNESCO's Draft Declaration on Cultural Diversity in the Context of Globalization"). Resolutions 55/81, 82, 83, 84 on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the International Year against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (item 3.6.5 entitled "UNESCO's contribution to the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance") and resolution 55/94 on the United Nations Decade of Human Rights Education (item 3.1.1 entitled "Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference").

3. It is worth noting that these major General Assembly resolutions deal with some of UNESCO's priorities as reflected in the Draft Medium-Term Strategy and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2002-2003, which, in turn, reflect the priorities in the global agenda as defined by the major United Nations conferences and the Millennium Summit Declaration. Some of these resolutions also relate to major events (World Conferences and General Assembly special sessions in 2001) that would review past conferences with a view to sharpening the focus for the United Nations system as a whole for the years to come. These are: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Brussels, 14-20 May 2001); General Assembly special sessions in New York on Human Settlements (6-8 June), HIV/AIDS (25-27 June) and on Children (19-21 September). A special meeting will be held during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (3-4 December). In addition, the United Nations will hold a Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms (9-20 July) and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (31 August-7 September in South Africa). The General Assembly will also hold preparatory meetings this year for the last of the major events in 2002: the World Summit on Sustainable Development (RIO + 10) and the Event on Financing for Development.

4. UNESCO is regularly participating and actively contributing to the preparation and holding of almost all these special sessions, conferences and events this year and the next year. The Board will be regularly informed of these efforts, their outcome and the role UNESCO is to play in their implementation and follow-up.

5. The main objective of this report is to brief the Executive Board on the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly of direct and indirect relevance to UNESCO's fields of competence, and to afford the Board the opportunity to interact with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council by issuing the policy guidelines and necessary actions that would ensure the complementarity of UNESCO with the rest of the United Nations system. The same effort is mirrored at the inter-agency, inter-secretariat level through the Administrative Committee for Coordination (ACC) especially after the last exercise of reform and review that created two ACC High-Level Committees, one on Programmes and the other on Management. The Board will regularly be briefed on the discussion and decisions of these bodies when appropriate and relevant.

A. The United Nations Millennium Summit: outcome and follow-up

6. In resolution 55/2, the General Assembly, meeting in early September 2000 in the historic form of a Millennium Summit, adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Later in the same session (designated as a Millennium session), the Assembly adopted resolution 55/162 entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit".

7. The Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) contains eight sections summarized as follows:

- (a) *Values and principles*: In this section, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their faith in the United Nations and its Charter as the indispensable foundation of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world; recognized their individual and collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity and stated their belief that the central challenge facing the world today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's peoples. They affirmed that international relations in the twenty-first century should be based on the following fundamental values: **freedom, equity, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility**. To translate these shared values into actions the Summit identified the following broad objectives:
- (b) *Peace, security and disarmament*: the Summit resolved to strengthen respect for the role of law in international and national affairs; to make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the necessary resources; to strengthen to this end cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations; to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and illicit traffic in small arms and to take concerted actions against international terrorism, transnational crime and the drug problem.
- (c) *Development and poverty eradication*: The Summit made several commitments in this area and adopted several time-bound targets:
 - (i) to halve by 2015 the number of people in extreme poverty, those suffering from hunger and those with no access to safe drinking water;

- (ii) to ensure by 2015 that children (boys and girls) will be able to complete primary schooling;
 - (iii) to reduce by 2015 maternal mortality by 75% and under-five child mortality by two thirds of current rates;
 - (iv) to halt by the same year 2015, and begin to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases;
 - (v) to provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- (d) *Protecting the environment*: the Summit resolved to adopt a new ethic of conservation and stewardship through agreeing:
- (i) to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002 (tenth anniversary of the Rio Conference) and to embark on the reduction of emission of greenhouse gases;
 - (ii) to intensify collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest;
 - (iii) to press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly in Africa;
 - (iv) to stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels;
 - (v) to intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effect of natural and man-made disasters;
 - (vi) to ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.
- (e) *Human rights, democracy and good governance*:

The Summit resolved to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law and human rights through:

- (i) respecting and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (ii) striving to fully protect and promote in all countries civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all;
- (iii) strengthening the capacity of all countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights including minority rights;
- (iv) combating all forms of violence against women;
- (v) working collectively for more inclusive political processes allowing genuine participation by all citizens;
- (vi) ensuring the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

(f) *Protecting the vulnerable:*

The Summit decided to spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilians do not fall victims to genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies through:

- (i) expanding and strengthening the protection of civilians in complex emergencies;
- (ii) strengthening countries hosting refugees and helping all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies;
- (iii) supporting international cooperation;
- (iv) encouraging ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

(g) *Meeting on special needs of Africa*

The Summit pledged to support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africa to achieve peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The Summit resolved to:

- (i) give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa;
- (ii) encourage and support regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability;
- (iii) take special measures on sustainable development and poverty eradication through debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced ODA, increased flows of foreign development investment as well as transfer of technology;
- (iv) help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

(h) *Strengthening the United Nations*

The Summit took a firm commitment to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of the above-mentioned priorities, and to that end to:

- (i) affirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations;
- (ii) intensify efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council;
- (iii) strengthen the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- (iv) strengthen the International Court of Justice;

- (v) encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations;
- (vi) ensure timely and predictable provision of resources to the organizations;
- (vii) urge the Secretariat to make the best and most efficient use of these resources;
- (viii) promote adherence to Conventions on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;
- (ix) ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO;
- (x) strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments;
- (xi) give greater opportunities to the private sector, NGOs and civil society organizations to contribute to the United Nations goals.

8. In resolution 55/162 entitled “**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**”, the General Assembly responded at the end of the session to the Summit’s request to review regularly the implementation of the Declaration, by outlining the objectives, modalities and reporting requirements and periodicity of the review. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a “road map” for the implementation of the Declaration with the United Nations system, to be submitted to the fifty-sixth session (later this year). The Secretary-General is further requested to prepare a comprehensive report every five years, supplemented by annual reports on progress achieved, taking into account the following:

- (a) annual reports should reflect the broad array of specific goals and commitments focusing on one or two areas;
- (b) all requests should focus on the results and benchmarks achieved, identify gaps and how to deal with them, and highlight particular cross-sectoral issues and cross-cutting themes;
- (c) reports should draw on the work of the entire United Nations system including the Bretton Wood institutions and WTO;
- (d) the reporting system should also be appraised to strengthen its coherence and integration.

9. To ensure this coherent and coordinated implementation and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, resolution 55/162 contains several paragraphs addressed to all entities of the United Nations system, and beyond. The most relevant to UNESCO are:

paragraph 6, which calls upon all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, and invites specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Summit;

paragraph 11, which requests the Secretary-General to ensure system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Declaration and invites him to identify, within the

framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), innovative ways of enhancing cooperation and coherence throughout the United Nations system;

paragraph 15, which requests the specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to keep the General Assembly informed on how they contribute to the implementation of the Declaration.

UNESCO's role

10. The importance of the Millennium Declaration does not primarily derive from the global priorities and targets it contains (since most of these are defined and adopted by the various United Nations and international conferences and special sessions), but from the fact that these global priorities and targets and the modalities of their implementation and follow-up are adopted by the largest gathering of Heads of State and Government in history, meeting as a Millennium Assembly of the United Nations. The Summit and its Declaration give these global priorities an unprecedented authority, commitment and political will that should guide and inspire concerted international action. The organizations of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, have a central role to play in the implementation of the Declaration's objectives and targets, through their actions and their support to the effort of Member States.

11. UNESCO's role in implementing the Summit Declaration is twofold: action that the Organization takes individually within its fields of competence and action that it takes within the United Nations system to enhance overall coherence of effort and maximize the impact of United Nations system activities as a whole. Since UNESCO is fully committed to United Nations system coordination and cooperation, and contributes to the system's effort at the global, regional and country levels, these two modes of actions often inform and reinforce each other.

12. The priorities and targets set out by the Summit are of utmost relevance and importance for UNESCO and are fully reflected in document 31 C/4 (Draft). Indeed UNESCO's activities in its fields of competence (education, sciences, culture and communication) contribute to and support, directly and indirectly, the broad areas identified by the Summit: peace and security, development and poverty eradication, the environment, human rights and democracy, protecting the vulnerable, Africa and strengthening the United Nations system. At the level of specific priority areas and targets, UNESCO will play a central and leadership role within the United Nations system especially as regards the halving of poverty by 2015 through education for all, culture, the sciences, in particular water, and communication. In other priority areas UNESCO will continue to contribute to United Nations system-wide common actions (e.g. Africa, LDCs, human rights and democracy, environmental protection, HIV/AIDS).

13. The reform programme of the Director-General, particularly the refocusing of programme priorities and the sharpening of areas of action to address fewer, but central challenges through the designation of principal and other priorities in the Programme and Budget for 2002-2003, is designed to render the Organization more efficient, effective and results-oriented in carrying its mandate. The Draft Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007), with its overarching themes, its central programme priorities and its cross cutting themes, is reflecting largely the concerns of the Millennium Declaration in UNESCO's fields of competence.

14. At the United Nations system level, UNESCO is already actively involved (within ACC and its subsidiary machinery), in considering the implementation and follow-up of the Millennium Declaration. The Executive Heads devoted most of the ACC Second Regular

Session for 2000 (New York, October) to the follow-up to the Summit. The ACC First Regular Session for 2001 (Nairobi, 2-3 April) is devoted to the same task of follow-up of the Declaration with a particular emphasis on two of the priority areas therein (eradication of poverty and Africa). Implementation and follow-up of the Declaration were also the main issues before the newly established ACC High-Level Committee on Programme (HLCP) during its very first meeting (Vienna, 26-27 February). The HLCP was established within the reform of ACC to ensure coherence, coordination and cooperation on programme matters across the United Nations system, to allow Heads of agencies to focus ACC sessions on strategic system-wide issues. In this context, the HLCP devoted part of its Vienna session to prepare for ACC discussions on system-wide efforts to accomplish the goals relating to poverty eradication and Africa, and to agree on the various roles assigned to member organizations in implementing the Declaration and its monitoring.

15. The outcome of the discussion and decisions of ACC on the implementation and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration will be reported to the Board, including the Secretary-General's "road map" and other modalities, together with UNESCO's role in the exercise. The Board will also be regularly informed of UNESCO's reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration, as well as on its contributions to the Secretary-General's reports on the overall action by the United Nations system.

16. In the light of the foregoing information concerning the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having considered the report of the Director-General on the United Nations Millennium Declaration: outcome and follow-up (161 EX/37),
2. Recognizing the high significance of the Declaration adopted by the United Nations Millennium Summit (New York, 6-8 September 2000), which clearly identifies the major global priorities and which offers the United Nations system a framework for common action to address these priorities,
3. Welcomes the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the historic Millennium Summit of the United Nations;
4. Convinced that UNESCO has an active role to play and an important contribution to make in implementing paragraphs of the Declaration, particularly in priority areas within its fields of competence;
5. Resolved to ensure that UNESCO's future Medium-Term Strategies and Programme and Budgets contribute to the United Nations system-wide coordinated efforts to implement the Declaration;
6. Requests the Director-General to ensure that UNESCO plays, within the ACC and other inter-agency arrangements, an active and central role in implementing the Declaration, particularly on priorities and targets within its mandate;
7. Further requests the Director-General to keep the Board informed, on a regular basis, with regard to the implementation of the Declaration and in particular on the Secretary-General's "road map" of implementation and follow-up.

B. International Year of Freshwater

17. In resolution 55/196 entitled “International Year of Freshwater”, the General Assembly, recalling the priorities of Agenda 21 (The Rio Conference) and the outcome of the General Assembly nineteenth special session (RIO + 5), relating to freshwater, and noting the ongoing work in the United Nations system on freshwater, proclaimed the Year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. The Assembly invited the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to serve as the coordinating entity for the Year and to develop relevant preliminary proposals for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (2001) on possible activities that could take place at all levels to celebrate the Year. The Assembly encouraged all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to **“take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of freshwater and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels”**.

18. According to the long-standing guidelines governing the celebrations of international years and anniversaries in the United Nations, the necessary funding must come from voluntary sources and not from regular budgets. The resolution called, therefore, upon “Member States, national and international organizations, major groups and the private sector to make voluntary contributions” to enable the United Nations system to celebrate the Year.

UNESCO’s action

19. Inadequate knowledge of water resource processes, misuse of water and poor management practices in different regions of the world have seriously compounded the water resources problem, critically undermining the sustained well-being of human societies and ecosystems. Population growth, coupled with mismanagement, is placing serious strains on natural resources, degrading the environment and exacerbating social and economic disparities, to the extent that this situation might lead to serious intra- and inter-state conflicts. The quality and availability of freshwater is not only necessary for social and economic development but vital to the very health and survival of human, and other forms of life on earth.

20. The need for more people-oriented and integrated approach to water management and development has been increasingly recognized over the last two decades. Furthermore, the urgent need for comprehensive assessment of the world’s freshwater has been emphasized and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (created after the Rio Conference on Environment and Development) urged the system to undertake a collective initiative to this effect. This led (with the strong support of the Hague Ministerial Conference of 2000) to the launching of the United Nations system-wide World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), hosted and managed by UNESCO in cooperation with other United Nations entities through the appropriate ACC mechanism. The WWAP aims at improving the assessment of the world’s water resources and their response to increasing pressure posed by escalating human demands and other factors.

21. For UNESCO, the proclamation of the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater is a most welcome and timely initiative. As stated in Section A, the Millennium Declaration placed providing safe drinking water at the top of the global targets to be achieved by 2015. Furthermore, and under the broad priority area of protecting the environment, the Declaration pledged to “stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels”. The Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 identified “water resources and ecosystem” as one of the principal priorities of UNESCO. The theme of the sixth phase of the

International Hydrological Programme (IHP-VI) for the same period is “Water Interactions: Systems at Risk and Social Challenges”. Other cross-cutting initiatives and the synergy with UNESCO’s other intergovernmental scientific programmes provide the Organization with the interdisciplinary underpinning necessary for a fully integrated strategy to deal with water resources in all their scientific, environmental, social and political dimensions.

22. The General Assembly designated the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources as the coordinating entity for the Year in recognition of the fact that this is one of the rare fields where the United Nations system (24 entities) is acting in a cooperative, collaborative fashion. In that context, UNESCO is playing a central role, bringing to the United Nations system efforts the breadth of its mandate which integrates the social, cultural and political dimensions into the scientific and environmental aspects. Within the joint exercise on the Year in the Subcommittee, UNESCO will continue to play its central and leading role to ensure that this joint system-wide effort benefit fully from the contribution and expertise of the Organization in the field of freshwater and related fields. UNESCO representatives in the Subcommittee will consult with the other partner organizations and offer its readiness to host and coordinate the preparation of the programme of activities for the Year on behalf of the Subcommittee.

23. UNESCO’s preliminary proposals for such a programme of activities for the Year include:

- (a) organization of thematic conferences and symposia (especially in priority regions such as Africa);
- (b) issuing of popular publications and audiovisual material dedicated to the Year;
- (c) publishing of the World Water Development Report (through WWAP) and launching it at the third World Forum in Japan;
- (d) popularizing and disseminating the results of the case studies of WWAP, especially those related to megacities (i.e. Tokyo and Bangkok) and river basins in Thailand, Southern Africa and Sri Lanka;
- (e) establishment of a website dedicated to the Year and linked to the IHP global portal;
- (f) utilizing and reorienting all relevant activities of IHP-VI (2002-2003), at the local, national, regional and international levels to the objectives of the year;
- (g) encouraging Member States for the preparation of promotional material and awards to specific target groups (youth, women, young scientists) as a contribution to the Year.

24. In the light of the Board’s discussions, further efforts will be exerted to develop a detailed programme of activities for the Year. The outcome will be reported to the Board during 2002.

25. In the light of the above information, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/196 proclaiming the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater,

2. Fully aware of the critical importance of the water resources problem and the need for an international campaign to raise awareness leading to concerted action at all levels,
3. Noting with satisfaction that water resources and ecosystems is a principal priority in document C/4 (Draft),
4. Welcomes and supports the General Assembly initiative to proclaim the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater;
5. Calls upon Member States, NGOs, and civil society organizations and the private sector to provide voluntary resources for the activities of the Year at local, national and regional levels and to enable UNESCO to actively play its role in the preparation and celebration of the Year;
6. Requests the Director-General to ensure that UNESCO plays a pivotal role, and actively contributes, in the joint United Nations system efforts within the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources with regard to the preparations for the Year;
7. Acknowledges the Director-General's preliminary proposals for UNESCO's programme of activities for the Year and requests him to finalize the programme and to report to the Board at its 164th session in 2002 on the preparations for the Year.

ANNEX I

COMPOSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MAJOR BODIES AND APPOINTMENTS TO KEY POSTS

1. Composition of the organs of the United Nations

The Security Council has 15 members. The five permanent members are China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

The 10 non-permanent members of the Council in 2001 are Bangladesh, Colombia, Ireland, Jamaica, Mali, Mauritius, Norway, Singapore, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has 54 members, elected for a three-year term by the General Assembly. In 2001, the composition of the Council is as follows: Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

The President for 2001 is **Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou** of Cameroon.

2. Elections and appointments to posts within the United Nations system

- **Kim Hak-Su (Republic of Korea)** as Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (April 2000).
- **Ms Danuta Hubner (Poland)** as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (May 2000).
- **Ms Karen Abu Zayd (United States)** as Deputy Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (June 2000).
- **Ms Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (United Republic of Tanzania)** as the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (July 2000).
- **Jean-Marie Guéhenno (France)** as Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations (October 2000).
- The Secretary-General recommended and the General Assembly elected **Ruud Lubbers (Netherlands)** as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (October 2000).
- **Ms Thoraya Obaid (Saudi Arabia)** as Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (October 2000).
- **Ms Mervat M. Tallawy (Egypt)** as Executive Secretary for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), at the level of Under-Secretary-General (November 2000).

- **Kenzo Oshima (Japan)** as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (December 2000).
- **Michael Sheehan (United States of America)** as Assistant Secretary-General for Logistics, Management and Mine Action Service in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (December 2000).
- **Sumihiro Kuyama (Japan)**, as Chairman of JIU, **Armando Duque Gonzalez (Colombia)** as Vice-Chairman of JIU (January 2001) and **Doris Betrand-Muck (Austria)**, **Ion Gorita (Romania)**, **Wolfgang M. Munch (Germany)** and **Louis-Dominique Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso)** as members of the Joint Inspection Unit (May 2000).
- **Michael Doyle (United States of America)** as Special Adviser in the Secretary-General's Executive Office (February 2001).

3. International Days, Decades and Years

2001 is the *United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations* (resolution 53/22), the *International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance* (resolution 54/154) and the *International Year of Volunteers* (resolution 52/17).

The observance of two new International Days, one International Year and one International Decade has been decided upon by the United Nations system:

20 June as *World Refugee Day* (resolution 55/76)

18 December as *International Migrant's Day* (resolution 55/93)

2003 as *International Year of Freshwater* (resolution 55/196)

2001-2010 as *Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism* (resolution 55/146)

4. Major conferences foreseen for 2001

The third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, **Brussels, 13-20 May 2001**. The General Assembly (resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997) decided to convene this Conference in order to assess the results of the Programme of Action during the 1990s at the country level, review the implementation of international support measures, and consider the formulation and adoption of appropriate national and international policies and measures for sustainable development of LDCs and their progressive integration into the world economy.

The Special Session of the General Assembly on Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), **New York, 6-8 June 2001**. Five years after Habitat II (Istanbul + 5), the General Assembly will hold a special session to review and appraise implementation of the Habitat Agenda worldwide.

The Special Session of the General Assembly on the Problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in all its aspects, **New York, 25-27 June 2001**. The General Assembly will convene a special session to review the problem in all its aspects and to secure a global commitment to combat the epidemic.

The United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects, **New York, 9-20 July 2001**.

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, **South Africa, 31 August-7 September 2001**. In 1997, the General Assembly decided to convene the Third World Conference against Racism, which will focus on action-oriented and practical steps to eradicate racism, including measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies. The World Conference will be a uniquely and important opportunity to create a new world vision for the fight against racism in the twenty-first century.

The Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, **New York, 19-21 September 2001**. An unprecedented meeting of the General Assembly dedicated to the children and adolescents of the world in order to review the progress made for children since the 1990 World Summit for Children and the World Declaration and Plan of Action and renew commitment for specific actions for the coming decade.

The World Food Summit: five years later, **Rome, 5-9 November 2001**, during the thirty-first session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Conference.

The General Assembly will also hold preparatory sessions this year for two other events scheduled for 2002: a meeting on financing for development in New York, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) in Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002.

ANNEX II

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS, YEARS AND DECADES

International Days (observed by the United Nations system)

1. **21 February** – International Mother Language Day (UNESCO)
2. **8 March** – International Women’s Day
3. **21 March** – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
4. **21 March** – World Poetry Day (UNESCO)
5. **22 March** – World Day for Water
6. **23 March** – World Meteorological Day (WMO)
7. **24 March** – World Tuberculosis Day (WHO)
8. **7 April** – World Health Day (WHO)
9. **23 April** – World Book and Copyright Day (UNESCO)
10. **3 May** – Sun Day (UNEP)
11. **3 May** – World Press Freedom Day (UNESCO)
12. **15 May** – International Day of Families
13. **17 May** – World Telecommunication Day (ITU)
14. **21 May** – World Day for Cultural Development (UNESCO)
15. **25 May** – Africa Day
16. **31 May** – World No-Tobacco Day (WHO)
17. **4 June** – International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
18. **5 June** – World Environment Day (UNEP)
19. **17 June** – World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
20. **20 June** – World Refugee Day
21. **26 June** – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
22. **26 June** – United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
23. **11 July** – World Population Day (UNFPA)
24. **1st Saturday July** – International Day of Cooperatives
25. **9 August** – International Day of Indigenous People
26. **12 August** – International Youth Day
27. **23 August** – International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (UNESCO)
28. **8 September** – International Literacy Day (UNESCO)
29. **16 September** – International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
30. **Last Week September** – World Maritime Day (IMO)
31. **3rd Tuesday September** – International Day of Peace (opening of the UNGA)
32. **1 October** – International Day of Older Persons
33. **5 October** – International Teachers’ Day (UNESCO)
34. **9 October** – World Post Day (UPU)
35. **16 October** – World Food Day (FAO)
36. **17 October** – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
37. **24 October** – United Nations Day
38. **24 October** – World Development Information Day
39. **1st Monday October** – World Habitat Day
40. **2nd Wednesday October** – International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
41. **16 November** – International Day for Tolerance (UNESCO)
42. **20 November** – Africa Industrialization Day
43. **20 November** – Universal Children’s Day (UNICEF)
44. **21 November** – World Television Day

45. **25 November** – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
46. **29 November** – International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
47. **1 December** – World AIDS Day (WHO)
48. **2 December** – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
49. **3 December** – International Day of Disabled Persons
50. **5 December** – International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
51. **7 December** – International Civil Aviation Day (ICAO)
52. **10 December** – Human Rights Day
53. **18 December** – International Migrant’s Day
54. **29 December** – International Day for Biological Diversity

International Years (proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly)

55. **2001** – International Year of Volunteers
56. **2001** – International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
57. **2001** – United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations
58. **2002** – International Year of Ecotourism
59. **2002** – International Year of Mountains
60. **2003** – International Year of Freshwater
61. **2005** – International Year of Microcredit

International Decades (proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly)

62. **2001-2010** – Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism
63. **1993-2002** – Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons
64. **1993-2002** – Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa
65. **1993-2003** – Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
66. **1994-2004** – International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People
67. **1995-2004** – United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education
68. **1997-2006** – First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
69. **2001-2010** – International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World