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**THEMATIC DEBATE: UNESCO AS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE REFORMING
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: CHALLENGES, ROLES AND FUNCTIONS
AT THE GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVELS**

SUMMARY

This document is a reference document for the thematic debate at the 175th session of the Executive Board on 4 October 2006. It contains the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.



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[without reference to a Main Committee (A/60/L.1)]

60/1. 2005 World Summit Outcome

The General Assembly

Adopts the following 2005 World Summit Outcome:

2005 World Summit Outcome

I. Values and principles

1. We, Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005.
2. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations and our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterate our determination to foster strict respect for them.
3. We reaffirm the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹ which we adopted at the dawn of the twenty-first century. We recognize the valuable role of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Summit, in mobilizing the international community at the local, national, regional and global levels and in guiding the work of the United Nations.
4. We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential to international relations.
5. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect their territorial integrity and political independence, to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to uphold resolution of disputes by

¹ See resolution 55/2.

peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter.

6. We reaffirm the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, in accordance with international law, in order to better address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world and to achieve progress in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, underlining the central role of the United Nations, and commit ourselves to promoting and strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization through the implementation of its decisions and resolutions.

7. We believe that today, more than ever before, we live in a global and interdependent world. No State can stand wholly alone. We acknowledge that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with international law, against transnational threats.

8. We recognize that current developments and circumstances require that we urgently build consensus on major threats and challenges. We commit ourselves to translating that consensus into concrete action, including addressing the root causes of those threats and challenges with resolve and determination.

9. We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

10. We reaffirm that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities.

11. We acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

12. We reaffirm that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security. We are committed to creating a world fit for future generations, which takes into account the best interests of the child.

13. We reaffirm the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights.

14. Acknowledging the diversity of the world, we recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We acknowledge the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world. In order to promote international peace and security, we commit ourselves to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples.

15. We pledge to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system. This is our shared responsibility and interest.

16. We therefore resolve to create a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic world and to undertake concrete measures to continue finding ways to implement the outcome of the Millennium Summit and the other major United Nations conferences and summits so as to provide multilateral solutions to problems in the four following areas:

- Development
- Peace and collective security
- Human rights and the rule of law
- Strengthening of the United Nations

II. Development

17. We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication.

18. We emphasize the vital role played by the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives, which have contributed to improving human life in different parts of the world.

19. We reaffirm our commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all. We are encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past and are determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide. We remain concerned, however, about the slow and uneven progress towards poverty eradication and the realization of other development goals in some regions. We commit ourselves to promoting the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization. We underline the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies and efforts backed by increased international support.

Global partnership for development

20. We reaffirm our commitment to the global partnership for development set out in the Millennium Declaration,¹ the Monterrey Consensus² and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.³

21. We further reaffirm our commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, and to mobilize domestic resources, attract international

² Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex).

³ Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II. A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex).

flows, promote international trade as an engine for development and increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

22. We reaffirm that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty. To this end, we resolve:

(a) To adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To manage public finances effectively to achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability and long-term growth and to make effective and transparent use of public funds and ensure that development assistance is used to build national capacities;

(c) To support efforts by developing countries to adopt and implement national development policies and strategies through increased development assistance, the promotion of international trade as an engine for development, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, increased investment flows and wider and deeper debt relief, and to support developing countries by providing a substantial increase in aid of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner to assist them in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) That the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space. It is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

(e) To enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development;

(f) To ensure that the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies support the efforts of developing countries through the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, enhancing their support for capacity-building;

(g) To protect our natural resource base in support of development.

Financing for development

23. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus² and recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of those resources in developing countries and countries with economies in transition are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard:

(a) We are encouraged by recent commitments to substantial increases in official development assistance and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimate that official development assistance to all developing countries will now increase by around 50 billion United States dollars a year by 2010, while recognizing that a substantial increase in such assistance is required to achieve the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, within their respective time frames;

(b) We welcome the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 as well as, pursuant to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁴ 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries no later than 2010, and urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

(c) We further welcome recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and resolve to take concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, including through further aligning assistance with countries' strategies, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results;

(d) We recognize the value of developing innovative sources of financing, provided those sources do not unduly burden developing countries. In that regard, we take note with interest of the international efforts, contributions and discussions, such as the Action against Hunger and Poverty, aimed at identifying innovative and additional sources of financing for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis to increase and supplement traditional sources of financing. Some countries will implement the International Finance Facility. Some countries have launched the International Finance Facility for immunization. Some countries will implement in the near future, utilizing their national authorities, a contribution on airline tickets to enable the financing of development projects, in particular in the health sector, directly or through financing of the International Finance Facility. Other countries are considering whether and to what extent they will participate in these initiatives;

⁴ A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

(e) We acknowledge the vital role the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development;

(f) We resolve to address the development needs of low-income developing countries by working in competent multilateral and international forums, to help them meet, inter alia, their financial, technical and technological requirements;

(g) We resolve to continue to support the development efforts of middle-income developing countries by working, in competent multilateral and international forums and also through bilateral arrangements, on measures to help them meet, inter alia, their financial, technical and technological requirements;

(h) We resolve to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly and invite those countries in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;

(i) We recognize the need for access to financial services, in particular for the poor, including through microfinance and microcredit.

Domestic resource mobilization

24. In our common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment, increasing human capacity, reducing capital flight, curbing the illicit transfer of funds and enhancing international cooperation for creating an enabling domestic environment. We undertake to support the efforts of developing countries to create a domestic enabling environment for mobilizing domestic resources. To this end, we therefore resolve:

(a) To pursue good governance and sound macroeconomic policies at all levels and support developing countries in their efforts to put in place the policies and investments to drive sustained economic growth, promote small and medium-sized enterprises, promote employment generation and stimulate the private sector;

(b) To reaffirm that good governance is essential for sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

(c) To make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and we welcome all actions taken in this regard at the national and international levels, including the adoption of policies that emphasize accountability, transparent public sector management and corporate responsibility and accountability, including efforts to return assets transferred through corruption, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.⁵ We urge all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying and implementing the Convention;

(d) To channel private capabilities and resources into stimulating the private sector in developing countries through actions in the public, public/private and

⁵ Resolution 58/4, annex.

private spheres to create an enabling environment for partnership and innovation that contributes to accelerated economic development and hunger and poverty eradication;

(e) To support efforts to reduce capital flight and measures to curb the illicit transfer of funds.

Investment

25. We resolve to encourage greater direct investment, including foreign investment, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support their development activities and to enhance the benefits they can derive from such investments. In this regard:

(a) We continue to support efforts by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments through, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights and the rule of law and pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage business formation;

(b) We will put into place policies to ensure adequate investment in a sustainable manner in health, clean water and sanitation, housing and education and in the provision of public goods and social safety nets to protect vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors of society;

(c) We invite national Governments seeking to develop infrastructure projects and generate foreign direct investment to pursue strategies with the involvement of both the public and private sectors and, where appropriate, international donors;

(d) We call upon international financial and banking institutions to consider enhancing the transparency of risk rating mechanisms. Sovereign risk assessments, made by the private sector should maximize the use of strict, objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis;

(e) We underscore the need to sustain sufficient and stable private financial flows to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It is important to promote measures in source and destination countries to improve transparency and the information about financial flows to developing countries, particularly countries in Africa, the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. Measures that mitigate the impact of excessive volatility of short-term capital flows are important and must be considered.

Debt

26. We emphasize the high importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, since debt financing and relief can be an important source of capital for development. To this end:

(a) We welcome the recent proposals of the Group of Eight to cancel 100 per cent of the outstanding debt of eligible heavily indebted poor countries owed to the International Monetary Fund, the International Development Association and African Development Fund and to provide additional resources to ensure that the financing capacity of the international financial institutions is not reduced;

(b) We emphasize that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth and underline the importance of debt sustainability to the efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing the key role that debt relief can play in liberating resources that can be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

(c) We further stress the need to consider additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based financing, cancellation of 100 per cent of the official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries and, where appropriate, and on a case-by-case basis, to consider significant debt relief or restructuring for low- and middle-income developing countries with an unsustainable debt burden that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, as well as the exploration of mechanisms to comprehensively address the debt problems of those countries. Such mechanisms may include debt for sustainable development swaps or multicreditor debt swap arrangements, as appropriate. These initiatives could include further efforts by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to develop the debt sustainability framework for low-income countries. This should be achieved in a fashion that does not detract from official development assistance resources, while maintaining the financial integrity of the multilateral financial institutions.

Trade

27. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

28. We are committed to efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, especially the least-developed countries, participate fully in the world trading system in order to meet their economic development needs, and reaffirm our commitment to enhanced and predictable market access for the exports of developing countries.

29. We will work towards the objective, in accordance with the Brussels Programme of Action,⁴ of duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries' products to the markets of developed countries, as well as to the markets of developing countries in a position to do so, and support their efforts to overcome their supply-side constraints.

30. We are committed to supporting and promoting increased aid to build productive and trade capacities of developing countries and to taking further steps in that regard, while welcoming the substantial support already provided.

31. We will work to accelerate and facilitate the accession of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to the World Trade Organization consistent with its criteria, recognizing the importance of universal integration in the rules-based global trading system.

32. We will work expeditiously towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha work programme.⁶

Commodities

33. We emphasize the need to address the impact of weak and volatile commodity prices and support the efforts of commodity-dependent countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors.

Quick-impact initiatives

34. Given the need to accelerate progress immediately in countries where current trends make the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals unlikely, we resolve to urgently identify and implement country-led initiatives with adequate international support, consistent with long-term national development strategies, that promise immediate and durable improvements in the lives of people and renewed hope for the achievement of the development goals. In this regard, we will take such actions as the distribution of malaria bed nets, including free distribution, where appropriate, and effective anti-malarial treatments, the expansion of local school meal programmes, using home-grown foods where possible, and the elimination of user fees for primary education and, where appropriate, health-care services.

Systemic issues and global economic decision-making

35. We reaffirm the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and to that end stress the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, noting that enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions remains a continuous concern.

36. We reaffirm our commitment to governance, equity and transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are also committed to open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems.

37. We also underscore our commitment to sound domestic financial sectors, which make a vital contribution to national development efforts, as an important component of an international financial architecture that is supportive of development.

38. We further reaffirm the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and we resolve to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

39. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international

⁶ See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries.

South-South cooperation

40. We recognize the achievements and great potential of South-South cooperation and encourage the promotion of such cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation as an effective contribution to development and as a means to share best practices and provide enhanced technical cooperation. In this context, we note the recent decision of the leaders of the South, adopted at the Second South Summit and contained in the Doha Declaration⁷ and the Doha Plan of Action,⁸ to intensify their efforts at South-South cooperation, including through the establishment of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership and other regional cooperation mechanisms, and encourage the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation. We also take note with appreciation of the launching of the third round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as an important instrument to stimulate South-South cooperation.

41. We welcome the work of the United Nations High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and invite countries to consider supporting the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme in order to respond effectively to the development needs of developing countries.

42. We recognize the considerable contribution of arrangements such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund initiated by a group of developing countries, as well as the potential contribution of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, to development activities in developing countries.

Education

43. We emphasize the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration,¹ in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty. In this context, we reaffirm the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000⁹ and recognize the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education for

⁷ A/60/111, annex I.

⁸ Ibid., annex II.

⁹ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

All programmes as a tool to achieve the millennium development goal of universal primary education by 2015.

44. We reaffirm our commitment to support developing country efforts to ensure that all children have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality, to eliminate gender inequality and imbalance and to renew efforts to improve girls' education. We also commit ourselves to continuing to support the efforts of developing countries in the implementation of the Education for All initiative, including with enhanced resources of all types through the Education for All fast-track initiative in support of country-led national education plans.

45. We commit ourselves to promoting education for peace and human development.

Rural and agricultural development

46. We reaffirm that food security and rural and agricultural development must be adequately and urgently addressed in the context of national development and response strategies and, in this context, will enhance the contributions of indigenous and local communities, as appropriate. We are convinced that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Rural and agricultural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies. We deem it necessary to increase productive investment in rural and agricultural development to achieve food security. We commit ourselves to increasing support for agricultural development and trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector in developing countries. Support for commodity development projects, especially market-based projects, and for their preparation under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities should be encouraged.

Employment

47. We strongly support fair globalization and resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies as well as our national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. These measures should also encompass the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, and forced labour. We also resolve to ensure full respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work.

Sustainable development: managing and protecting our common environment

48. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of sustainable development, including through the implementation of Agenda 21¹⁰ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.³ To this end, we commit ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles.¹¹ These efforts will also promote the integration of the

¹⁰ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, annex I.

three components of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection – as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

49. We will promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In that context, we support developing countries in their efforts to promote a recycling economy.

50. We face serious and multiple challenges in tackling climate change, promoting clean energy, meeting energy needs and achieving sustainable development, and we will act with resolve and urgency in this regard.

51. We recognize that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe. We emphasize the need to meet all the commitments and obligations we have undertaken in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹² and other relevant international agreements, including, for many of us, the Kyoto Protocol.¹³ The Convention is the appropriate framework for addressing future action on climate change at the global level.

52. We reaffirm our commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention: to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

53. We acknowledge that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of the Convention. We are committed to moving forward the global discussion on long-term cooperative action to address climate change, in accordance with these principles. We stress the importance of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Montreal in November 2005.

54. We acknowledge various partnerships that are under way to advance action on clean energy and climate change, including bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives.

55. We are committed to taking further action through practical international cooperation, inter alia:

(a) To promote innovation, clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation; improve policy, regulatory and financing frameworks; and accelerate the deployment of cleaner technologies;

(b) To enhance private investment, transfer of technologies and capacity-building to developing countries, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account their own energy needs and priorities;

(c) To assist developing countries to improve their resilience and integrate adaptation goals into their sustainable development strategies, given that adaptation to the effects of climate change due to both natural and human factors is a high

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹³ FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

priority for all nations, particularly those most vulnerable, namely, those referred to in article 4.8 of the Convention;

(d) To continue to assist developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and African countries, including those that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, in addressing their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change.

56. In pursuance of our commitment to achieve sustainable development, we further resolve:

(a) To promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”;

(b) To support and strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁴ to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

(c) That the States parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵ and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁶ should support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as other biodiversity-related agreements and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. The States parties will continue to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines,¹⁷ an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. All States will fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;

(d) To recognize that the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their communities is crucial in our fight against hunger and poverty;

(e) To reaffirm our commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

(f) To work expeditiously towards the establishment of a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards with regional nodes, building on existing national and regional capacity such as the newly established Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁶ UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

¹⁷ UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, annex I, decision VI/24A.

(g) To fully implement the Hyogo Declaration¹⁸ and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015¹⁹ adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

(h) To assist developing countries' efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in accordance with the Millennium Declaration¹ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,³ including halving by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and who do not have access to basic sanitation;

(i) To accelerate the development and dissemination of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty;

(j) To strengthen the conservation, sustainable management and development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations, including through enhanced international cooperation, so that trees and forests may contribute fully to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors. We look forward to the discussions at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(k) To promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, aiming to achieve that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment using transparent and science-based risk assessment and risk management procedures, by adopting and implementing a voluntary strategic approach to international management of chemicals, and to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, as appropriate;

(l) To improve cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to address issues related to oceans and seas in an integrated manner and promote integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas;

(m) To achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;

¹⁸ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

¹⁹ Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

(n) To acknowledge the invaluable role of the Global Environment Facility in facilitating cooperation with developing countries; we look forward to a successful replenishment this year along with the successful conclusion of all outstanding commitments from the third replenishment;

(o) To note that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries and recognize the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials. States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns. These concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport.

HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues

57. We recognize that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of development goals. We acknowledge the substantial efforts and financial contributions made by the international community, while recognizing that these diseases and other emerging health challenges require a sustained international response. To this end, we commit ourselves to:

(a) Increasing investment, building on existing mechanisms and through partnership, to improve health systems in developing countries and those with economies in transition with the aim of providing sufficient health workers, infrastructure, management systems and supplies to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

(b) Implementing measures to increase the capacity of adults and adolescents to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection;

(c) Fully implementing all commitments established by the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS²⁰ through stronger leadership, the scaling up of a comprehensive response to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, care, treatment and support, the mobilization of additional resources from national, bilateral, multilateral and private sources and the substantial funding of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as of the HIV/AIDS component of the work programmes of the United Nations system agencies and programmes engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

(d) Developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it, including through increased resources, and working towards the elimination of stigma and discrimination, enhanced access to affordable medicines and the reduction of vulnerability of

²⁰ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

persons affected by HIV/AIDS and other health issues, in particular orphaned and vulnerable children and older persons;

(e) Ensuring the full implementation of our obligations under the International Health Regulations adopted by the fifty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2005,²¹ including the need to support the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization;

(f) Working actively to implement the “Three Ones” principles in all countries, including by ensuring that multiple institutions and international partners all work under one agreed HIV/AIDS framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners, with one national AIDS coordinating authority having a broad-based multisectoral mandate, and under one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system. We welcome and support the important recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors;

(g) Achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

(h) Promoting long-term funding, including public-private partnerships where appropriate, for academic and industrial research as well as for the development of new vaccines and microbicides, diagnostic kits, drugs and treatments to address major pandemics, tropical diseases and other diseases, such as avian flu and severe acute respiratory syndrome, and taking forward work on market incentives, where appropriate through such mechanisms as advance purchase commitments;

(i) Stressing the need to urgently address malaria and tuberculosis, in particular in the most affected countries, and welcoming the scaling up, in this regard, of bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

Gender equality and empowerment of women

58. We remain convinced that progress for women is progress for all. We reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action²² and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and we resolve to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination by:

(a) Eliminating gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all educational levels by 2015;

(b) Guaranteeing the free and equal right of women to own and inherit property and ensuring secure tenure of property and housing by women;

²¹ World Health Assembly resolution 58.3.

²² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

- (c) Ensuring equal access to reproductive health;
- (d) Promoting women's equal access to labour markets, sustainable employment and adequate labour protection;
- (e) Ensuring equal access of women to productive assets and resources, including land, credit and technology;
- (f) Eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child, including by ending impunity and by ensuring the protection of civilians, in particular women and the girl child, during and after armed conflicts in accordance with the obligations of States under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;
- (g) Promoting increased representation of women in Government decision-making bodies, including through ensuring their equal opportunity to participate fully in the political process.

59. We recognize the importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality. To that end, we undertake to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, and further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender.

Science and technology for development

60. We recognize that science and technology, including information and communication technology, are vital for the achievement of the development goals and that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advancements and enhance their productive capacity. We therefore commit ourselves to:

- (a) Strengthening and enhancing existing mechanisms and supporting initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;
- (b) Promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries;
- (c) Assisting developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;
- (d) Promoting and supporting greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal;
- (e) Implementing policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;
- (f) Supporting the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

(g) Building a people-centred and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide, putting the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of development and addressing new challenges of the information society by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in November 2005; in this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund and encourage voluntary contributions to its financing.

Migration and development

61. We acknowledge the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit. We recognize that international migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community. We look forward to the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on international migration and development to be held in 2006, which will offer an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize their development benefits and minimize their negative impacts.

62. We reaffirm our resolve to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families.

63. We reaffirm the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of transferring migrant remittances to developing countries and welcome efforts by Governments and stakeholders in this regard.

Countries with special needs

64. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries and urge all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010.⁴

65. We recognize the special needs of and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and therefore reaffirm our commitment to urgently address those needs and challenges through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries²³ and the São Paulo Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.²⁴ We encourage the work undertaken by United Nations regional commissions and organizations towards establishing a time-cost methodology for indicators to measure the progress in implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. We also recognize the special difficulties and concerns of landlocked developing countries in their efforts to integrate their economies into the

²³ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

²⁴ TD/412, part II.

multilateral trading system. In this regard, priority should be given to the full and timely implementation of the Almaty Declaration²⁵ and the Almaty Programme of Action.²³

66. We recognize the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States and reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address those needs and vulnerabilities through the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,²⁶ the Barbados Programme of Action²⁷ and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.²⁸ We further undertake to promote greater international cooperation and partnership for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy through, inter alia, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the promotion of international trade as an engine for development and increased international financial and technical cooperation.

67. We emphasize the need for continued, coordinated and effective international support for achieving the development goals in countries emerging from conflict and in those recovering from natural disasters.

Meeting the special needs of Africa

68. We welcome the substantial progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments and emphasize the need to carry forward the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development²⁹ to promote sustainable growth and development and deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management and gender equality and encourage African countries, with the participation of civil society and the private sector, to continue their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and the development of the region, and also welcome the recent decisions taken by Africa's partners, including the Group of Eight and the European Union, in support of Africa's development efforts, including commitments that will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, to enable it to enter the mainstream of the world economy, and resolve:

(a) To strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and

²⁵ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.*

²⁶ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*

²⁷ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.*

²⁸ Resolution S-22/2, annex.

²⁹ A/57/304, annex.

external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions;

(b) To support the African commitment to ensure that by 2015 all children have access to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality, as well as to basic health care;

(c) To support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa;

(d) To promote a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, including through the cancellation of 100 per cent of multilateral debt consistent with the recent Group of Eight proposal for the heavily indebted poor countries, and, on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate, significant debt relief, including, inter alia, cancellation or restructuring for heavily indebted African countries not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative that have unsustainable debt burdens;

(e) To make efforts to fully integrate African countries in the international trading system, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes;

(f) To support the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors and decide to work towards market-based arrangements with the participation of the private sector for commodity price-risk management;

(g) To supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable way, as set out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as part of an African "Green Revolution";

(h) To encourage and support the initiatives of the African Union and subregional organizations to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts with the assistance of the United Nations, and in this regard welcomes the proposals from the Group of Eight countries to provide support for African peacekeeping;

(i) To provide, with the aim of an AIDS-, malaria- and tuberculosis-free generation in Africa, assistance for prevention and care and to come as close as possible to achieving the goal of universal access by 2010 to HIV/AIDS treatment in African countries, to encourage pharmaceutical companies to make drugs, including antiretroviral drugs, affordable and accessible in Africa and to ensure increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems.

III. Peace and collective security

69. We recognize that we are facing a whole range of threats that require our urgent, collective and more determined response.

70. We also recognize that, in accordance with the Charter, addressing such threats requires cooperation among all the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective mandates.

71. We acknowledge that we are living in an interdependent and global world and that many of today's threats recognize no national boundaries, are interlinked and

must be tackled at the global, regional and national levels in accordance with the Charter and international law.

72. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to work towards a security consensus based on the recognition that many threats are interlinked, that development, peace, security and human rights are mutually reinforcing, that no State can best protect itself by acting entirely alone and that all States need an effective and efficient collective security system pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

Pacific settlement of disputes

73. We emphasize the obligation of States to settle their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, including, when appropriate, by the use of the International Court of Justice. All States should act in accordance with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.³⁰

74. We stress the importance of prevention of armed conflict in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and solemnly renew our commitment to promote a culture of prevention of armed conflict as a means of effectively addressing the interconnected security and development challenges faced by peoples throughout the world, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for the prevention of armed conflict.

75. We further stress the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflicts and the settlement of disputes and the need for the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General to coordinate their activities within their respective Charter mandates.

76. Recognizing the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in the mediation of disputes, we support the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen his capacity in this area.

Use of force under the Charter of the United Nations

77. We reiterate the obligation of all Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the Charter. We reaffirm that the purposes and principles guiding the United Nations are, inter alia, to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, and to that end we are determined to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations that might lead to a breach of the peace.

78. We reiterate the importance of promoting and strengthening the multilateral process and of addressing international challenges and problems by strictly abiding

³⁰ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

by the Charter and the principles of international law, and further stress our commitment to multilateralism.

79. We reaffirm that the relevant provisions of the Charter are sufficient to address the full range of threats to international peace and security. We further reaffirm the authority of the Security Council to mandate coercive action to maintain and restore international peace and security. We stress the importance of acting in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

80. We also reaffirm that the Security Council has primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. We also note the role of the General Assembly relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter.

Terrorism

81. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

82. We welcome the Secretary-General's identification of elements of a counter-terrorism strategy. These elements should be developed by the General Assembly without delay with a view to adopting and implementing a strategy to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses, at the national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, which also takes into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this context, we commend the various initiatives to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations.

83. We stress the need to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

84. We acknowledge that the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations could be considered.

85. We recognize that international cooperation to fight terrorism must be conducted in conformity with international law, including the Charter and relevant international conventions and protocols. States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with their obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

86. We reiterate our call upon States to refrain from organizing, financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities and to take appropriate measures to ensure that their territories are not used for such activities.

87. We acknowledge the important role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism and also stress the vital contribution of regional and bilateral cooperation, particularly at the practical level of law enforcement cooperation and technical exchange.

88. We urge the international community, including the United Nations, to assist States in building national and regional capacity to combat terrorism. We invite the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly and the Security Council, within their respective mandates, to strengthen the capacity of the United

Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and to enhance the coordination of United Nations activities in this regard.

89. We stress the importance of assisting victims of terrorism and of providing them and their families with support to cope with their loss and their grief.

90. We encourage the Security Council to consider ways to strengthen its monitoring and enforcement role in counter-terrorism, including by consolidating State reporting requirements, taking into account and respecting the different mandates of its counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies. We are committed to cooperating fully with the three competent subsidiary bodies in the fulfilment of their tasks, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in implementing relevant Security Council resolutions.

91. We support efforts for the early entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism³¹ and strongly encourage States to consider becoming parties to it expeditiously and acceding without delay to the twelve other international conventions and protocols against terrorism and implementing them.

Peacekeeping

92. Recognizing that United Nations peacekeeping plays a vital role in helping parties to conflict end hostilities and commending the contribution of United Nations peacekeepers in that regard, noting improvements made in recent years in United Nations peacekeeping, including the deployment of integrated missions in complex situations, and stressing the need to mount operations with adequate capacity to counter hostilities and fulfil effectively their mandates, we urge further development of proposals for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities to reinforce peacekeeping operations in crises. We endorse the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity to provide coherent, effective and responsive start-up capability for the policing component of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and to assist existing missions through the provision of advice and expertise.

93. Recognizing the important contribution to peace and security by regional organizations as provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter and the importance of forging predictable partnerships and arrangements between the United Nations and regional organizations, and noting in particular, given the special needs of Africa, the importance of a strong African Union:

(a) We support the efforts of the European Union and other regional entities to develop capacities such as for rapid deployment, standby and bridging arrangements;

(b) We support the development and implementation of a ten-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union.

³¹ Resolution 59/290, annex.

94. We support implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.³²

95. We urge States parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention³³ and Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons³⁴ to fully implement their respective obligations. We call upon States in a position to do so to provide greater technical assistance to mine-affected States.

96. We underscore the importance of the recommendations of the Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel,³⁵ and urge that those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based upon the recommendations be fully implemented without delay.

Peacebuilding

97. Emphasizing the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace, recognizing the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development, and recognizing the vital role of the United Nations in that regard, we decide to establish a Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body.

98. The main purpose of the Peacebuilding Commission is to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery. The Commission should focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development. In addition, it should provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, develop best practices, help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and extend the period of attention by the international community to post-conflict recovery. The Commission should act in all matters on the basis of consensus of its members.

99. The Peacebuilding Commission should make the outcome of its discussions and recommendations publicly available as United Nations documents to all relevant bodies and actors, including the international financial institutions. The Peacebuilding Commission should submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

100. The Peacebuilding Commission should meet in various configurations. Country-specific meetings of the Commission, upon invitation of the Organizational

³² See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

³³ Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597).

³⁴ Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B).

³⁵ A/59/710, paras. 68-93.

Committee referred to in paragraph 101 below, should include as members, in addition to members of the Organizational Committee, representatives from:

- (a) The country under consideration;
- (b) Countries in the region engaged in the post-conflict process and other countries that are involved in relief efforts and/or political dialogue, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations;
- (c) The major financial, troop and civilian police contributors involved in the recovery effort;
- (d) The senior United Nations representative in the field and other relevant United Nations representatives;
- (e) Such regional and international financial institutions as may be relevant.

101. The Peacebuilding Commission should have a standing Organizational Committee, responsible for developing its procedures and organizational matters, comprising:

- (a) Members of the Security Council, including permanent members;
- (b) Members of the Economic and Social Council, elected from regional groups, giving due consideration to those countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery;
- (c) Top providers of assessed contributions to the United Nations budgets and voluntary contributions to the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, including the standing Peacebuilding Fund, that are not among those selected in (a) or (b) above;
- (d) Top providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions that are not among those selected in (a), (b) or (c) above.

102. Representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutional donors should be invited to participate in all meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission in a manner suitable to their governing arrangements, in addition to a representative of the Secretary-General.

103. We request the Secretary-General to establish a multi-year standing Peacebuilding Fund for post-conflict peacebuilding, funded by voluntary contributions and taking due account of existing instruments. The objectives of the Peacebuilding Fund will include ensuring the immediate release of resources needed to launch peacebuilding activities and the availability of appropriate financing for recovery.

104. We also request the Secretary-General to establish, within the Secretariat and from within existing resources, a small peacebuilding support office staffed by qualified experts to assist and support the Peacebuilding Commission. The office should draw on the best expertise available.

105. The Peacebuilding Commission should begin its work no later than 31 December 2005.

Sanctions

106. We underscore that sanctions remain an important tool under the Charter in our efforts to maintain international peace and security without recourse to the use of force, and resolve to ensure that sanctions are carefully targeted in support of clear

objectives, to comply with sanctions established by the Security Council and to ensure that sanctions are implemented in ways that balance effectiveness to achieve the desired results against the possible adverse consequences, including socio-economic and humanitarian consequences, for populations and third States.

107. Sanctions should be implemented and monitored effectively with clear benchmarks and should be periodically reviewed, as appropriate, and remain for as limited a period as necessary to achieve their objectives and should be terminated once the objectives have been achieved.

108. We call upon the Security Council, with the support of the Secretary-General, to improve its monitoring of the implementation and effects of sanctions, to ensure that sanctions are implemented in an accountable manner, to review regularly the results of such monitoring and to develop a mechanism to address special economic problems arising from the application of sanctions in accordance with the Charter.

109. We also call upon the Security Council, with the support of the Secretary-General, to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions.

110. We support efforts through the United Nations to strengthen State capacity to implement sanctions provisions.

Transnational crime

111. We express our grave concern at the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including the smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, the world narcotic drug problem and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime. We reaffirm the need to work collectively to combat transnational crime.

112. We recognize that trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response. To that end, we urge all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims.

113. We urge all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the relevant international conventions on organized crime and corruption and, following their entry into force, to implement them effectively, including by incorporating the provisions of those conventions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems.

114. We reaffirm our unwavering determination and commitment to overcome the world narcotic drug problem through international cooperation and national strategies to eliminate both the illicit supply of and demand for illicit drugs.

115. We resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandates, to provide assistance to Member States in those tasks upon request.

Women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts

116. We stress the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. We reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on

women and peace and security. We also underline the importance of integrating a gender perspective and of women having the opportunity for equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as the need to increase their role in decision-making at all levels. We strongly condemn all violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the use of sexual exploitation, violence and abuse, and we commit ourselves to elaborating and implementing strategies to report on, prevent and punish gender-based violence.

Protecting children in situations of armed conflict

117. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children in armed conflicts. We welcome the significant advances and innovations that have been achieved over the past several years. We welcome in particular the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005. We call upon States to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child³⁶ and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.³⁷ We also call upon States to take effective measures, as appropriate, to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, contrary to international law, by armed forces and groups, and to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

118. We therefore call upon all States concerned to take concrete measures to ensure accountability and compliance by those responsible for grave abuses against children. We also reaffirm our commitment to ensure that children in armed conflicts receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance, including education, for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

IV. Human rights and the rule of law

119. We recommit ourselves to actively protecting and promoting all human rights, the rule of law and democracy and recognize that they are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations, and call upon all parts of the United Nations to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their mandates.

120. We reaffirm the solemn commitment of our States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³⁸ and other instruments relating to human rights and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

Human rights

121. We reaffirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, all States, regardless of their

³⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

³⁷ Resolution 54/263, annex I.

³⁸ Resolution 217 A (III).

political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

122. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

123. We resolve further to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery with the aim of ensuring effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

124. We resolve to strengthen the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking note of the High Commissioner's plan of action, to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate to respond to the broad range of human rights challenges facing the international community, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-building, through the doubling of its regular budget resources over the next five years with a view to progressively setting a balance between regular budget and voluntary contributions to its resources, keeping in mind other priority programmes for developing countries and the recruitment of highly competent staff on a broad geographical basis and with gender balance, under the regular budget, and we support its closer cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

125. We resolve to improve the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies, including through more timely reporting, improved and streamlined reporting procedures and technical assistance to States to enhance their reporting capacities and further enhance the implementation of their recommendations.

126. We resolve to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into national policies and to support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system, as well as closer cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and all relevant United Nations bodies.

127. We reaffirm our commitment to continue making progress in the advancement of the human rights of the world's indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional and international levels, including through consultation and collaboration with them, and to present for adoption a final draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples as soon as possible.

128. We recognize the need to pay special attention to the human rights of women and children and undertake to advance them in every possible way, including by bringing gender and child-protection perspectives into the human rights agenda.

129. We recognize the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed full enjoyment of their rights without discrimination. We also affirm the need to finalize a comprehensive draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

130. We note that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society.

131. We support the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as appropriate, and encourage all States to develop initiatives in this regard.

Internally displaced persons

132. We recognize the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement³⁹ as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons and resolve to take effective measures to increase the protection of internally displaced persons.

Refugee protection and assistance

133. We commit ourselves to safeguarding the principle of refugee protection and to upholding our responsibility in resolving the plight of refugees, including through the support of efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement, bringing about the safe and sustainable return of those populations, finding durable solutions for refugees in protracted situations and preventing refugee movement from becoming a source of tension among States. We reaffirm the principle of solidarity and burden-sharing and resolve to support nations in assisting refugee populations and their host communities.

Rule of law

134. Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels, we:

(a) Reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States;

(b) Support the annual treaty event;

(c) Encourage States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to all treaties that relate to the protection of civilians;

(d) Call upon States to continue their efforts to eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;

(e) Support the idea of establishing a rule of law assistance unit within the Secretariat, in accordance with existing relevant procedures, subject to a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, so as to strengthen United Nations activities to promote the rule of law, including through technical assistance and capacity-building;

(f) Recognize the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, call upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute and consider means of strengthening the Court's work, including by supporting the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice on a voluntary basis.

³⁹ E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Democracy

135. We reaffirm that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. We also reaffirm that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirm the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right of self-determination. We stress that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

136. We renew our commitment to support democracy by strengthening countries' capacity to implement the principles and practices of democracy and resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States upon their request. We welcome the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations. We note that the advisory board to be established should reflect diverse geographical representation. We invite the Secretary-General to help to ensure that practical arrangements for the Democracy Fund take proper account of existing United Nations activity in this field.

137. We invite interested Member States to give serious consideration to contributing to the Fund.

Responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

138. Each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. We accept that responsibility and will act in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability.

139. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In this context, we are prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We stress the need for the General Assembly to continue consideration of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and its implications, bearing in mind the principles of the Charter and international law. We also intend to commit ourselves, as necessary and appropriate, to helping States build capacity to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and to assisting those which are under stress before crises and conflicts break out.

140. We fully support the mission of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.

Children's rights

141. We express dismay at the increasing number of children involved in and affected by armed conflict, as well as all other forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking. We support cooperation policies aimed at strengthening national capacities to improve the situation of those children and to assist in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

142. We commit ourselves to respecting and ensuring the rights of each child without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status of the child or his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). We call upon States to consider as a priority becoming a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.³⁶

Human security

143. We stress the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. We recognize that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. To this end, we commit ourselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly.

Culture of peace and initiatives on dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions

144. We reaffirm the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace⁴⁰ as well as the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action⁴¹ adopted by the General Assembly and the value of different initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations, including the dialogue on interfaith cooperation. We commit ourselves to taking action to promote a culture of peace and dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels and request the Secretary-General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms and to follow up on those initiatives. In this regard, we also welcome the Alliance of Civilizations initiative announced by the Secretary-General on 14 July 2005.

145. We underline that sports can foster peace and development and can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, and we encourage discussions in the General Assembly for proposals leading to a plan of action on sport and development.

V. Strengthening the United Nations

146. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the United Nations with a view to enhancing its authority and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address effectively, and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the full range of challenges of our time. We are determined to reinvigorate the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations and to adapt them to the needs of the twenty-first century.

⁴⁰ Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

⁴¹ See resolution 56/6.

147. We stress that, in order to efficiently perform their respective mandates as provided under the Charter, United Nations bodies should develop good cooperation and coordination in the common endeavour of building a more effective United Nations.

148. We emphasize the need to provide the United Nations with adequate and timely resources with a view to enabling it to carry out its mandates. A reformed United Nations must be responsive to the entire membership, faithful to its founding principles and adapted to carrying out its mandate.

General Assembly

149. We reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

150. We welcome the measures adopted by the General Assembly with a view to strengthening its role and authority and the role and leadership of the President of the Assembly and, to that end, we call for their full and speedy implementation.

151. We call for strengthening the relationship between the General Assembly and the other principal organs to ensure better coordination on topical issues that require coordinated action by the United Nations, in accordance with their respective mandates.

Security Council

152. We reaffirm that Member States have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided for by the Charter.

153. We support early reform of the Security Council - an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations - in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions. We commit ourselves to continuing our efforts to achieve a decision to this end and request the General Assembly to review progress on the reform set out above by the end of 2005.

154. We recommend that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Council in its work, as appropriate, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work.

Economic and Social Council

155. We reaffirm the role that the Charter and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council and recognize the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals. To achieve these objectives, the Council should:

(a) Promote global dialogue and partnership on global policies and trends in the economic, social, environmental and humanitarian fields. For this purpose, the Council should serve as a quality platform for high-level engagement among

Member States and with the international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society on emerging global trends, policies and action and develop its ability to respond better and more rapidly to developments in the international economic, environmental and social fields;

(b) Hold a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations;

(c) Ensure follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the internationally agreed development goals, and hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews to assess progress, drawing on its functional and regional commissions and other international institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(d) Support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response from the United Nations;

(e) Play a major role in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and agencies, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities.

156. We stress that in order to fully perform the above functions, the organization of work, the agenda and the current methods of work of the Economic and Social Council should be adapted.

Human Rights Council

157. Pursuant to our commitment to further strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery, we resolve to create a Human Rights Council.

158. The Council will be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner.

159. The Council should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon. It should also promote effective coordination and the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system.

160. We request the President of the General Assembly to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations, to be completed as soon as possible during the sixtieth session, with the aim of establishing the mandate, modalities, functions, size, composition, membership, working methods and procedures of the Council.

Secretariat and management reform

161. We recognize that in order to effectively comply with the principles and objectives of the Charter, we need an efficient, effective and accountable Secretariat. Its staff shall act in accordance with Article 100 of the Charter, in a culture of organizational accountability, transparency and integrity. Consequently we:

(a) Recognize the ongoing reform measures carried out by the Secretary-General to strengthen accountability and oversight, improve management

performance and transparency and reinforce ethical conduct, and invite him to report to the General Assembly on the progress made in their implementation;

(b) Emphasize the importance of establishing effective and efficient mechanisms for responsibility and accountability of the Secretariat;

(c) Urge the Secretary-General to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity shall be the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter;

(d) Welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to ensure ethical conduct, more extensive financial disclosure for United Nations officials and enhanced protection for those who reveal wrongdoing within the Organization. We urge the Secretary-General to scrupulously apply the existing standards of conduct and develop a system-wide code of ethics for all United Nations personnel. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit details on an ethics office with independent status, which he intends to create, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

(e) Pledge to provide the United Nations with adequate resources, on a timely basis, to enable the Organization to implement its mandates and achieve its objectives, having regard to the priorities agreed by the General Assembly and the need to respect budget discipline. We stress that all Member States should meet their obligations with regard to the expenses of the Organization;

(f) Strongly urge the Secretary-General to make the best and most efficient use of resources in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interest of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices, including effective use of information and communication technologies, with a view to increasing efficiency and enhancing organizational capacity, concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of the Organization.

162. We reaffirm the role of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter. We request the Secretary-General to make proposals to the General Assembly for its consideration on the conditions and measures necessary for him to carry out his managerial responsibilities effectively.

163. We commend the Secretary-General's previous and ongoing efforts to enhance the effective management of the United Nations and his commitment to update the Organization. Bearing in mind our responsibility as Member States, we emphasize the need to decide on additional reforms in order to make more efficient use of the financial and human resources available to the Organization and thus better comply with its principles, objectives and mandates. We call on the Secretary-General to submit proposals for implementing management reforms to the General Assembly for consideration and decision in the first quarter of 2006, which will include the following elements:

(a) We will ensure that the United Nations budgetary, financial and human resource policies, regulations and rules respond to the current needs of the Organization and enable the efficient and effective conduct of its work, and request the Secretary-General to provide an assessment and recommendations to the General Assembly for decision during the first quarter of 2006. The assessment and recommendations of the Secretary-General should take account of the measures already under way for the reform of human resources management and the budget process;

(b) We resolve to strengthen and update the programme of work of the United Nations so that it responds to the contemporary requirements of Member States. To this end, the General Assembly and other relevant organs will review all mandates older than five years originating from resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs, which would be complementary to the existing periodic reviews of activities. The General Assembly and the other organs should complete and take the necessary decisions arising from this review during 2006. We request the Secretary-General to facilitate this review with analysis and recommendations, including on the opportunities for programmatic shifts that could be considered for early General Assembly consideration;

(c) A detailed proposal on the framework for a one-time staff buyout to improve personnel structure and quality, including an indication of costs involved and mechanisms to ensure that it achieves its intended purpose.

164. We recognize the urgent need to substantially improve the United Nations oversight and management processes. We emphasize the importance of ensuring the operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Therefore:

(a) The expertise, capacity and resources of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in respect of audit and investigations will be significantly strengthened as a matter of urgency;

(b) We request the Secretary-General to submit an independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system of the United Nations, including the specialized agencies, including the roles and responsibilities of management, with due regard to the nature of the auditing and oversight bodies in question. This evaluation will take place within the context of the comprehensive review of the governance arrangements. We ask the General Assembly to adopt measures during its sixtieth session at the earliest possible stage, based on the consideration of recommendations of the evaluation and those made by the Secretary-General;

(c) We recognize that additional measures are needed to enhance the independence of the oversight structures. We therefore request the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session for its early consideration on the creation of an independent oversight advisory committee, including its mandate, composition, selection process and qualification of experts;

(d) We authorize the Office of Internal Oversight Services to examine the feasibility of expanding its services to provide internal oversight to United Nations agencies that request such services in such a way as to ensure that the provision of internal oversight services to the Secretariat will not be compromised.

165. We insist on the highest standards of behaviour from all United Nations personnel and support the considerable efforts under way with respect to the implementation of the Secretary-General's policy of zero tolerance regarding sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, both at Headquarters and in the field. We encourage the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly leading to a comprehensive approach to victims' assistance by 31 December 2005.

166. We encourage the Secretary-General and all decision-making bodies to take further steps in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies and decisions of the Organization.

167. We strongly condemn all attacks against the safety and security of personnel engaged in United Nations activities. We call upon States to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel⁴² and stress the need to conclude negotiations on a protocol expanding the scope of legal protection during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

System-wide coherence

168. We recognize that the United Nations brings together a unique wealth of expertise and resources on global issues. We commend the extensive experience and expertise of the various development-related organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in their diverse and complementary fields of activity and their important contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the other development objectives established by various United Nations conferences.

169. We support stronger system-wide coherence by implementing the following measures:

Policy

- Strengthening linkages between the normative work of the United Nations system and its operational activities
- Coordinating our representation on the governing boards of the various development and humanitarian agencies so as to ensure that they pursue a coherent policy in assigning mandates and allocating resources throughout the system
- Ensuring that the main horizontal policy themes, such as sustainable development, human rights and gender, are taken into account in decision-making throughout the United Nations

Operational activities

- Implementing current reforms aimed at a more effective, efficient, coherent, coordinated and better-performing United Nations country presence with a strengthened role for the senior resident official, whether special representative, resident coordinator or humanitarian coordinator, including appropriate authority, resources and accountability, and a common management, programming and monitoring framework
- Inviting the Secretary-General to launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities so that they can make an even more effective contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, including proposals for consideration by Member States for more tightly managed entities in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment

⁴² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

Humanitarian assistance

- Upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and ensuring that humanitarian actors have safe and unhindered access to populations in need in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws
- Supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian response, inter alia, by improving the timeliness and predictability of humanitarian funding, in part by improving the Central Emergency Revolving Fund
- Further developing and improving, as required, mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacities, under the auspices of the United Nations, for a timely response to humanitarian emergencies

Environmental activities

- Recognizing the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation, better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties, and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building, we agree to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure, building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments, as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies

Regional organizations

170. We support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter, and therefore resolve:

(a) To expand consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations through formalized agreements between the respective secretariats and, as appropriate, involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council;

(b) To ensure that regional organizations that have a capacity for the prevention of armed conflict or peacekeeping consider the option of placing such capacity in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System;

(c) To strengthen cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments

171. We call for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national and regional parliaments, in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to furthering all aspects of the Millennium Declaration in all fields of the work of the United Nations and ensuring the effective implementation of United Nations reform.

Participation of local authorities, the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations

172. We welcome the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes and stress the importance of their continued engagement with Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations in these key areas.

173. We welcome the dialogue between those organizations and Member States, as reflected in the first informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

174. We underline the important role of local authorities in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

175. We encourage responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact.

Charter of the United Nations

176. Considering that the Trusteeship Council no longer meets and has no remaining functions, we should delete Chapter XIII of the Charter and references to the Council in Chapter XII.

177. Taking into account General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995 and recalling the related discussions conducted in the General Assembly, bearing in mind the profound cause for the founding of the United Nations and looking to our common future, we resolve to delete references to “enemy States” in Articles 53, 77 and 107 of the Charter.

178. We request the Security Council to consider the composition, mandate and working methods of the Military Staff Committee.

*8th plenary meeting
16 September 2005*



General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 60 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)]

55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration

The General Assembly

Adopts the following Declaration:

United Nations Millennium Declaration

I. Values and principles

1. We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, at the dawn of a new millennium, to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
2. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.
4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

5. We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.
6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:
 - **Freedom.** Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
 - **Equality.** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
 - **Solidarity.** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
 - **Tolerance.** Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
 - **Respect for nature.** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
 - **Shared responsibility.** Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.
7. In order to translate these shared values into actions, we have identified key objectives to which we assign special significance.

II. Peace, security and disarmament

8. We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the

past decade. We will also seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction.

9. We resolve therefore:

- To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.
- To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations¹ and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously.
- To strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
- To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.²
- To take concerted action against international terrorism, and to accede as soon as possible to all the relevant international conventions.
- To redouble our efforts to implement our commitment to counter the world drug problem.
- To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.
- To minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on innocent populations, to subject such sanctions regimes to regular reviews and to eliminate the adverse effects of sanctions on third parties.
- To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.
- To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and

¹ A/55/305-S/2000/809; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fifth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 2000*, document S/2000/809.

² A/CONF.183/9.

on Their Destruction,³ as well as the amended mines protocol to the Convention on conventional weapons.⁴

10. We urge Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, now and in the future, and to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

III. Development and poverty eradication

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.
12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.
13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.
14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.
15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:
 - To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
 - To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
 - To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.
16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

³ See CD/1478.

⁴ Amended protocol on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B).

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action⁵ and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.
18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.
19. We resolve further:
 - To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
 - To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
 - By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
 - To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
 - To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
 - By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.
20. We also resolve:
 - To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
 - To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
 - To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
 - To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.

⁵ Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II).

- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration,⁶ are available to all.

IV. Protecting our common environment

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.
22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21,⁷ agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:
 - To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
 - To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
 - To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸ and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.⁹
 - To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
 - To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.
 - To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

V. Human rights, democracy and good governance

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.
25. We resolve therefore:

⁶ E/2000/L.9.

⁷ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

⁹ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.¹⁰
- To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
- To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
- To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.¹¹
- To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.
- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

We resolve therefore:

- To expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law.
- To strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies.
- To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹² and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.¹³

VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa

27. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy.

¹⁰ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹¹ Resolution 34/180, annex.

¹² Resolution 44/25, annex.

¹³ Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

28. We resolve therefore:

- To give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.
- To encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent.
- To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.
- To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

VIII. Strengthening the United Nations

29. We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.

30. We resolve therefore:

- To reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.
- To intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.
- To strengthen further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter.
- To strengthen the International Court of Justice, in order to ensure justice and the rule of law in international affairs.
- To encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions.
- To ensure that the Organization is provided on a timely and predictable basis with the resources it needs to carry out its mandates.
- To urge the Secretariat to make the best use of those resources, in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interests of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices and technologies available and by concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of Member States.
- To promote adherence to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.¹⁴

¹⁴ Resolution 49/59, annex.

- To ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as other multilateral bodies, with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to the problems of peace and development.
 - To strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues.
 - To give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes.
31. We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action.
 32. We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

*8th plenary meeting
8 September 2000*

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hundred and seventy-fifth session

Item 45 of the provisional agenda

**THEMATIC DEBATE: UNESCO AS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE
REFORMING UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: CHALLENGES, ROLES AND
FUNCTIONS AT THE GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVELS**

Reflections on the Future Role of UNESCO: Some Key Issues, Trends and Challenges

SUMMARY

This document is a reference document for the thematic debate at the 175th session of the Executive Board on 4 October 2006. It is a revised version of the discussion paper dated 11 May 2006 prepared by the Director-General for the global consultation on the long-term future role of UNESCO pursuant to 33 C/Resolution 64 of the General Conference: this version takes into account observations made during the consultative process for the 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 and reflects in more detail UNESCO's latest proposals on the United Nations reform.

24 August 2006*

Reflections on the Future Role of UNESCO: Some Key Issues, Trends and Challenges

Discussion paper prepared by the Director-General
for the global consultation on the long-term future role of UNESCO
pursuant to 33 C/Resolution 64 of the General Conference

Background

1. At the initiative of the Asia and Pacific Group, the General Conference, at its 33rd session, adopted resolution 64 entitled “Reflection on the future role of UNESCO” (see full text in the annex). In this resolution, the General Conference, *inter alia*:

- “6. Requests the Director-General, in consultation with the President of the General Conference and the Chair of the Executive Board, to lead a global consultation on the long-term future role of UNESCO – using the modalities, *inter alia*, of the forthcoming regional consultations on documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 – with the Permanent Delegations, the National Commissions, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with UNESCO, youth constituencies, including delegates to previous youth fora, and other United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations University;
7. Further requests the Director-General to prepare for this global consultation a succinct and engaging discussion paper identifying issues, trends and challenges of relevance for the future role of UNESCO, including themes identified at the 33rd session of the General Conference and taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Task Force on UNESCO in the Twenty-First Century (160 EX/48);
8. Requests the Director-General to draw on the results of this ongoing global consultation in the preparation of his vision and proposals for the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, and to present a brief report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Conference at its 34th session.”

2. The General Conference, in its resolution 64, also reiterated certain key principles for determining the future role of UNESCO, including:

- the continuing relevance of UNESCO’s Constitution, 60 years after its adoption, and the need to re-read the Constitution in this regard to address the challenges of the twenty-first century;
- the need to be guided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document;

* Revised version of the discussion paper dated 11 May 2006: this version takes into account observations made during the consultative process for documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 and reflects in more detail UNESCO’s latest proposals on the United Nations reform

- the desire of maintaining the vitality and effectiveness of the Organization and of enhancing its capacity to contribute to international cooperation in its domains – education, science and culture, as well as communication and information – and to the national development of Member States;
- the special role accorded to the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, especially as standard-setters, policy advisers, policy advocates and builders of human and institutional capacities in Member States.

3. In preparing the present discussion paper, due attention was paid to a host of resources, including: the deliberations of the 33rd session of the General Conference; the report of the Task Force on UNESCO in the Twenty-First Century (160 EX/48);¹ the UNESCO World Report on “Building Knowledge Societies” (2005); other sectoral reports, including the various issues of the EFA Global Monitoring Report; relevant meetings held on the future of UNESCO by the Social and Human Sciences Sector; and reports emanating from United Nations system organizations or independent commissions.

4. The paper restates the abiding relevance of UNESCO’s mandate (Chapter I), describes emerging global trends (Chapter II), and identifies challenges most likely to influence the multilateral system at large and especially UNESCO (Chapter III). Chapters IV and V then place in context the reform of the United Nations system and the implications for UNESCO’s future role and orientations.

I. The abiding relevance of UNESCO’s mandate

5. This paper will demonstrate that UNESCO’s mandate as set out in its Constitution remains as relevant as ever. The basic purposes and functions, as defined in Article I of UNESCO’s Constitution are “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations”.

6. The overarching goals for which UNESCO was established remain valid and relevant today, even though the context within which the Constitutional mission is being carried out, and consequently the priorities for action, continue to evolve and in the process open up new opportunities and challenges. Certain trends that were only emerging at the time of the Organization’s foundation – or for that matter at the time when the current Medium-Term Strategy (31 C/4) was formulated – have since become more marked, while others have undergone a shift and certain medium- or longer-term processes are becoming more pronounced. UNESCO provides a platform where some of the global challenges can be discussed, if not tackled, on the basis of equality among Member States.

7. The Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 (31 C/4) stipulates that the Organization pursues its mandate by:

- (i) developing universal principles and norms, based on shared values, in order to meet the emerging challenges in its areas of competence and to strengthen the common public good;

¹ Final Report of the Task Force on UNESCO in the Twenty-First Century, “Towards peace and security in the twenty-first century: The challenges and opportunities of the humanization of globalization” (document 160 EX/48, 11 October 2000).

- (ii) promoting pluralism, through recognition and enhancement of diversity together with the observance of human rights (with particular emphasis also on the right to education);
- (iii) promoting empowerment and participation in the emerging knowledge society through equitable access, capacity-building and sharing of knowledge.

8. Throughout its activities, UNESCO performs a number of functions for the international community:

- catalyst for international cooperation;
- laboratory of ideas;
- standard-setting;
- clearing house;
- capacity-builder in Member States.

The document will examine to what extent these functions remain valid in the present environment and the foreseeable future.

II. Some global trends

9. Among the trends impacting on UNESCO's mission directly and indirectly are the following:

10. The world's **population** is predicted to increase by about half in the coming 50 years to around 9.3 billion and to stabilize at approximately 10 billion by the end of the twenty-first century. According to some forecasts it may even well exceed the 10 billion mark. In many countries, because of rural–urban migration, rural populations have already ceased to grow and rural and urban population numbers on a global scale are forecast to be equal by 2006. Particularly in those regions and countries where population growth rates fall, an increase can be expected in per capita incomes, associated with a progressive fall in the number of people living in extreme poverty. While there will be a drop in the proportion of people living in poverty in many countries of Africa and parts of South Asia, absolute numbers are expected to grow, at least until 2030, if present trends continue.

11. The **processes of globalization**, affecting all societal spheres, impacting on national developments and driven by market forces, can be expected to remain the main driving force, if not a dominant mega-trend, entailing increased global flows and movement of information and communication, capital, goods and people worldwide. Yet, the unprecedented economic expansion taking place in the world today is accompanied by ever-increasing phenomena of exclusion, impoverishment and widening disparities. **Globalization** will bring about a **greater interdependence between countries from all regions**. Increasingly, the policies of some countries are likely to have an impact on other countries, creating a need for greater understanding of the nature of interdependence and of other peoples. Within each country, there will be an asymmetry between different elements of society, some who benefit and some who bear the brunt of sacrifices induced by globalization. **This will give strong impetus to efforts aimed at “humanizing globalization”**. If national decision-makers begin to perceive that the costs of openness – equated with globalization – exceed the costs of isolation, further globalization may well be halted. In any case, globalization will bring about a general decline in state sovereignty and in the ability to influence key parameters of state life traditionally under the control of national governments. This

may be accompanied by a shift of power from states to inter-state networks and evolving new alliances and regional or subregional integration entities.

12. **New political and economic powers** are likely to emerge and impact the global political and economic structure and relationships, such as China (expected to eradicate poverty by 2050 and increase average life expectancy to 80 years), India, Brazil, Indonesia and countries endowed with strategic resources. In the process, old categories of international relations will become obsolete, such as East and West, North and South, developed/industrialized versus developing countries. Emerging regional and subregional integration organizations and trading blocs may mature into global players in their own right. They will enjoy a comparative advantage in harmonizing hitherto national policies and are capable of addressing a host of transboundary issues in an efficient manner.

13. **The fight against poverty** will continue to command centre stage and it will become more pronounced in all regions. There has been progress, but far from enough. Even in “winner countries” such as China, Brazil and India deep pockets of poverty will persist in rural areas, together with continued high numbers of illiterate people. According to the World Bank, the proportion of the world’s population living on \$1 a day or less was 22% in 1993 or 1.2 billion people. By 2001, the proportion had fallen to 17.8% or just over 1 billion people – predominantly attributable to Asia while there was regress in Africa the causes of which experts attribute to war, ravages of disease, an unfair trading regime, low investment flows and poor governance. If present trends persist, the poverty figures may have dropped to around 620 million people by 2015 or about 9% of world population. Success, yes – but still a staggering figure. Overall, the world is neither on track for meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 of halving poverty by 2015, nor other MDGs for that matter, most of which are directly linked to the poverty dynamics. As a result, countries can be expected to adopt policies with better focus and sectoral targeting. The battle against poverty will be extended to a more determined struggle against **lingering intra-country inequalities and fragmentations** to prevent a development of “segmented societies”, drawing also on the potential of ICTs and the contribution of media, with their innate ability to capture the interests and needs of marginalized segments of societies and to focus on contributing factors to poverty like corruption or mismanagement. **Africa will continue to require special attention** in its battle against poverty, also in an effort to stave the emergence of failing states especially in the wake of conflicts. While the absolute number of Africans mired in poverty is much lower than those in other regions, the relative impact and burden of poverty in all its dimensions is more detrimental in view of the fragility of many economies and societies of the continent.

14. **Education will be under stress. Most of the EFA goals – two among them MDGs – may be missed in sub-Saharan Africa**, as well as in parts of South and West Asia and the Arab States. The MDG of universal primary education will be missed due to demographic pressures (growth of school-age population will outgrow enrolment), and the MDG of gender parity will equally be missed (growth rates for girls would have to be an unrealistic 3% per year). In 2005, 60% of 128 countries were missing gender parity at primary and secondary levels by 2005. The adult literacy goal is likely to be missed in a large number of (big) countries with high population growth (India would have to increase its literate population aged 15 and over by nearly 22 million annually until 2015 to reach the goal, Bangladesh and Pakistan would require 3.9 and 3.4 million respectively per year).

15. **The employment dynamics sends mixed, if not inconclusive signals.** In OECD countries, unemployment in 1993 stood at 7.8% of the work force and the latest figures for 2004 show a decrease to 6.3%. Yet, within rich countries an increase in inequality has occurred. From a global perspective, the expansion of the global labour force, especially due to developments in Asia, has held down income levels of unskilled labour in all countries. The spread of ICTs had a similar

effect. Outsourcing leads to job gains in developing countries at the expense of industrialized countries. These trends are gradually spawning a rise in economic nationalism in many industrialized countries. In both industrialized and developing countries there will be, across the board, an increase in women's participation in paid jobs, which in turn is projected to buttress economic growth.

16. **Burgeoning migration bolsters capital flows and fuels domestic tensions.** International migration is set to rise from 175 million today to 230 million people in 2050 (though this nominal increase translates into a relative decline from 2.9% of world population to 2.6%). Likewise, intra-state migrations are on the rise: urban-rural migration trends point to the likely emergence of a world with a large number of **semi-autonomous mega-cities** with millions of population (the percentage of population in urban areas is projected to increase from 48% in 2003 to 61% in 2030), which may affect the authority and control of central governments. The challenges of managing cultural diversity within nation states and the observance of human rights of migrants may trigger debates about migration policies in immigration countries. On the other hand, developed countries with a decreasing population may offer incentives to attract certain immigrants. Migration will increasingly become a major economic factor, as migrants' remittances are already surpassing levels of official development assistance (ODA) by more than half. Likewise, the number of refugees and migrants leaving their homes due to environmental pressures is projected to rise considerably.

17. Environmental problems by their sheer scale and gravity may impinge on human well-being and safety and may generate new forms of conflict. This may be due to the fact that the **competition for** scarce, if not dwindling and increasingly expensive **natural resources** is accelerating. Conflicts may occur over or involve land, water, mineral and energy resources – affecting predominantly developing countries –, aggravated by the impact of climate change (rising sea level, intense storms and hurricanes, continent-wide “dust bowl” effects, reduced food security). The danger is not seen so much with sudden degradations of the environment per se, but more with the consequences for human societies, that might entail famines or mass migrations. Poor countries in particular will find it exceedingly difficult to cope with the consequences of climate change. Global warming will increasingly have an impact on access to water, food security, flooding of large areas, and the health situation (e.g. the annual number of malaria cases is expected to rise from 50 million a year to 80 million by 2100). The use, availability and quality of water and related ecosystems will be of paramount importance. Currently, an estimated one billion people have no access to clean drinking water and 2.6 billion are without adequate sanitation. Water is recognized not only as a commodity, but as a glue that binds humanity together through complex interactions – it touches on every aspect of human existence and is the basis for sustainable development and existence. Scientific and technological solutions are only part of the equation – the other part comprises sustainable water management, good governance, cultural and biological diversity.

18. The **effective management of risks related to global hazards and natural disasters** will become a global priority, as will be the necessity to set up early warning systems. Lessons from the tsunami tragedy and other natural disasters shall increasingly influence and condition future preparedness and readiness. Emergencies seem poised to become more frequent and larger in scale, which is partly due to the human-induced degradation of ecosystems, extremes in meteorological conditions and long-term changes in weather patterns, all of which may require fundamental adjustments in many regions of the world.

19. **Technoscience will make further strident advances.** For the first time in history humankind will be capable of genetically modifying itself. The ethical, legal and normative limits and barriers of the scientific knowledge upon us must be addressed and defined in order to protect the principle of human dignity. While advances in science and technology, especially in the biological field, offer

new hope for the development and well-being of societies and individuals, they raise at the same time novel and grave ethical questions. By developing the means and techniques to master biology through genetic tinkering and manipulation, the possibility is being created to control certain evolutionary factors and to domesticate the human race itself.

20. The processes of globalization, especially the rapid increases in the number of people travelling over long distances and in the movement of goods across boundaries and oceans, introduce new, as yet unmanageable **new global security issues**. In particular, they accelerate the spread of diseases and epidemics – such as SARS or bird flu – which may cause new, rapidly multiplying global **health crises** in the form of epidemics. The devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and parts of Asia may have an additional and unpredictable negative impact on economic growth in those countries affected – and on their human resource capacities for sustainable development.

21. Globalization equally affects **cultural diversity**, which is closely linked to intercultural dialogue. Indeed, they are inseparable and mutually dependent. Globalization also impinges on **languages and multilingualism**. They are essential conditions for sustainable development in all environments, including cyberspace, education systems, cultural expressions and exchanges, at international, regional and national levels. It is estimated that there are over 6,000 languages spoken in the world today, with 96% of these languages spoken by just 4% of the world's population. At least half of these languages are in danger of disappearing within several generations. Half of all languages can be found in just eight countries: Papua New Guinea (about 800), Indonesia (about 700), Nigeria (about 500), India (about 400), Mexico (about 300), Cameroon (about 250), Australia (250) and Brazil (230).

22. **Threats to peace and international security will persist**. Apart from the spectre of conflicts over resources, failing states may become a threat to global security, spawning new conflicts and intensifying calls for humanitarian interventions. There may as well be an upsurge in violence in many countries, in particular among the youth. New environments for conflicts may open up also in space and cyberspace. Fanaticism and terrorism will continue to afflict societies on a global scale and in an indiscriminate manner.

23. **Transnational organized crime** is likely to grow, especially within failed states. It may take the form of narco-trafficking, narcoterrorism, human trafficking, including of women and children for sexual exploitation, as well as illegal traffic – or destruction – of cultural property and may spawn tentacles around the globe, challenging the power of the state and insidiously penetrating all sectors of society and the economy.

24. **The global phenomenon of ageing** may trigger new forms of poverty, especially in industrialized countries, such as **age poverty** or **poverty due to shrinking or insufficient social security nets or coverage**. The reproductive rates of most developed countries (such as European countries, Russia, Japan, Australia, and North American countries), but also of developing countries like China, Turkey or Algeria are dipping below the level of 2.1 children per woman, necessary to maintain long-term population stability. For one, China will have 400 million inhabitants over 65 by 2020.

25. Changes are evolving within countries affecting the respective roles of the state, the private sector and civil society. The **power of non-state actors is predicted to rise**, such as in the form of multinational companies and the private sector at large, global socially- or rights-oriented NGOs, single issue pressure groups and civil society, mobilized via the Internet or through membership schemes, youth and women's groups, local government entities, professional associations and religious and faith leaders.

26. The **rise of global religions and faiths** is injecting new forms of social interaction and politics beyond the realm of the nation state. Trends suggest that the proportion of Christians and Muslims with regard to world population will increase, as sects and new religions will continue to spread in all regions. Identities will be influenced by a diversity of ethnic, linguistic and religious factors, which may cause tensions, within and beyond national boundaries, if pluralism is not properly nurtured and managed at the national level.

27. The **information and communication revolution**, comparable in its impact with the industrial revolution, is bringing about a substantial restructuring of societal arrangements, interaction and networking. It offers enormous new opportunities for social and human development and for poverty alleviation, not least facilitating the worldwide exchange of knowledge for the benefit of the greatest number, but it may equally be capable of causing new rifts and forms of exclusion. However, in the wake of technological innovations, new digital divides will arise. While Internet and mobile phone connections will be pervasive in high-income groups in all countries, the access divide will remain in rural areas, not serviced by privatized communication companies. Satellite communications will introduce a new dynamic. A content divide is equally emerging, as more and more information will be digitized and protected by DRM (digital rights management) structures. The possibilities for harnessing knowledge and promoting its sharing through ICT-enhanced media will continue to increase in line with the rapid evolution of ICTs. New challenges to freedom of expression will arise due to the transboundary flow of information, emerging security issues and the need to thwart the use of ICTs, especially the Internet, for terrorist purposes.

28. **South-South cooperation** is in the ascendancy. Overall, there has been an impressive growth in technical skills and institutional capacities in almost all developing countries. Apart from reducing the demand for long-term technical assistance involving large teams of internationally recruited experts, this has opened up exciting opportunities for expanding South-South cooperation programmes and facilitating an increase in cross-country training and collaborative research opportunities. It has also altered the mix of skills which countries will seek when soliciting assistance.

29. **Governance**, at both the worldwide and national levels, may need to be adjusted to cope with the complexity of the global problems, to find sustainable and coherent strategies and solutions and to deal with powerful national and multinational stakeholders. At the national level, demands will continue to seek improved governance through a strengthening of participation in democratic processes, the observance of the rule of law and the separation of powers, ensuring the independence of the judiciary, the adoption of effective measures against corruption, the promotion of transparency and accountability, a broadening of access to information and full respect for human rights. In this regard, pluralistic and independent media of high professional and ethical standards will be critical.

30. **Flows of official development assistance (ODA) are increasing, but are not sufficient to reach the MDGs.** At the international level, following the *Monterrey Consensus* that emerged from the International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002, the *Gleneagles Communiqué*, issued at the end of the G8 meeting held in July 2005, put on record the commitments of many developed countries – including the 25 countries of the European Union, as well as Japan and Canada – to double aid within five years. During their September 2005 meetings, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank both reached agreement to cancel the debts owed to them by 18 developing countries and opened up the prospect of extending similar arrangements to many more of the poorest countries. This would mean that current levels of \$80 billion would indeed grow until \$128 billion by 2010. However, the 2010 target ODA level of 0.36% of GNP (currently at 0.26) would only be marginally above that of 1990. According to the OECD-DAC

Development Cooperation Report 2005, ODA would have to double from \$69 billion in 2003 to \$135 billion in 2006 to fully finance the MDGs, rising thereafter to \$195 billion by 2015. This goes well beyond existing commitments and calls for long-term and targeted commitments by donors. Also, current trends like directing ODA to select post-conflict countries and heavily favouring bilateral and tied aid as well as global funds (not administered by the United Nations) are likely to gain ground, thereby further eroding the financing base of multilateral organizations.

31. **The United Nations reform process will go on unabatedly and will intensify.** While the quest for United Nations reform has been on the international agenda for decades, it has arguably now reached a level of urgency, being pursued at the highest levels of government and seen as a once-in-a-generation necessity. Apart from persistent efforts to bring the multilateral structures in line with new power and economic realities of a changed world, such as through better **international governance** and in particular a reform of the United Nations Security Council, the bulk of initiatives is seeking to ensure that the international development system will deliver with requisite quality on the promises of 2000 (United Nations Millennium Declaration) and 2005 (United Nations World Summit Outcome document). Concretely, this will mean realizing efficiency gains by streamlining the uncoordinated proliferation of programmes, pruning duplication and waste and enhancing the impact of operational action at the country level, yielding measurable results and preventing and resolving conflicts. This means that the character of the United Nations system will be transformed from one that has been created to preserve peace and promote international cooperation in the wake of major conflagrations and economic depression to one that will derive its legitimacy from international cooperation pursuing MDGs and ensuring human security. Structural and governance reforms creating a group of entities around major themes may affect the present balance between specialized agencies, United Nations funds and programmes as well as the Bretton Woods institutions. Overall, the future role, comparative advantages and niches of all these entities will need to be re-articulated and confirmed. In that process, special attention must be paid to instilling a balance and productive linkage between normative and operational activities – which are the hallmark and strength of specialized agencies. The outcomes of these reform efforts are very difficult to predict, as Member States are either beginning or are in the middle of negotiating major proposals. Yet, the creation of new special-purpose mechanisms, such as Global Funds, outside the United Nations system, or resort to regional mechanisms may impact on the future role of the United Nations system as well as the magnitude of development funds channelled through it. Likewise, the considerable growth in institutional capacities and skills in many developing countries will require many United Nations organizations to change their approaches and menu of assistance in significant ways.

III. Challenges to the multilateral system and especially UNESCO

32. The perceived global trends and developments will pose immediate challenges to, but also opportunities for the multilateral system in general and to UNESCO more specifically. Some of the trends described may well have been apparent six years ago, when the last Medium-Term Strategy was adopted. Yet, this time the emphasis and urgency is on the need to define more precisely the particular challenges in order to lay the foundations for concrete action. UNESCO needs to make timely and proactive contributions to tackling these challenges – preferably ahead of the “international activity curve”. The present chapter therefore sets out the principal challenges and outlines some directions for UNESCO’s future actions, newly to be initiated or sharpening current activities.

Fighting poverty

33. In the development sphere, **the fight against poverty** will not only become the central focus, but it will define in specific terms programme action by all multilateral organizations. The

persistence and deepening of poverty globally can and must be tackled through a better understanding of the multiple dimensions of poverty and a better focus on areas, some often neglected in traditional poverty paradigms, that can be tackled through action by the Organization, such as education, science, especially the role and application of local and indigenous knowledge, approaches aimed at preserving cultural diversity, or the poverty-reducing potential of ICTs, including through a promotion of good governance and free and independent media. UNESCO has prepared itself increasingly, also through interdisciplinary action, to contribute to the attainment of the MDGs. One of its major contributions thus far has been the management of the EFA process and the building of requisite capacities in Member States. The publication of the annual EFA Global Monitoring Report (fed almost exclusively by UNESCO's own statistical arm UIS) has internationally been recognized as a landmark accomplishment for policy development (and a reference point for MDG monitoring) and it is likewise a starting point for capacity-building. UNESCO education institutes play a unique role in fine-tuning and providing advice and training to beef up national capacities. However, much remains to be done, especially in terms of localized goals/action, and UNESCO must bring its competence to bear more visibly and effectively in delivering concrete solutions. UNESCO will be challenged to further reinforce its work in favour of women and girls, sub-Saharan Africa, the disadvantaged and marginalized populations (rural and urban poor, people with disabilities, migrants, victims of conflicts and natural disasters).

34. The needs of the **urban and rural poor** will be a growing concern. Uncontrolled urbanization in some developing countries means that, increasingly, there are few or no institutions and infrastructures to service the new urban populations (including in education, science, culture, communication). For similar reasons, rural areas run the risk of a similar acute neglect. There will be a need to address the specific needs of those populations, with an emphasis on urban management issues and rural deprivation.

Fostering peace and dialogue

35. New approaches may be needed to **contribute to peace** in a growingly unpredictable, unstable and segmented world. In the current international environment, the emphasis has shifted away from the concern with disarmament in previous decades and has turned towards emphasizing the value of dialogue and understanding in a world of diversity and new ignorances. Given this growing international recognition of the critical contribution of dialogue to peace and reconciliation, UNESCO will need to position itself effectively to bring to bear the full potential of dialogue at all levels, especially through its educational, cultural and communication programmes. Through international cooperation, efforts will need to be intensified to portray and instil a positive meaning of tolerance as a bedrock for a **culture of peace**, in the fight against racism and discriminations of all sorts, and to help prevent the outbreak of conflicts in various fields. UNESCO continues to be committed to the promotion of a **culture of peace** in various ways and through all its major programmes. UNESCO will increasingly need to respond to crisis situations and their aftermath, including natural and human-made disasters due to environmental stress and intervening in weak/fragile states, especially those emerging from acute and violent conflict. The **combat against terrorism** has moved to the top of the international agenda. UNESCO has outlined an approach detailing how it can contribute to this campaign (General Conference Resolution, 2001) and is following a long-term dissuasion approach through its domains. Relevant activities include the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples aimed at redefining the logic, purpose and modalities of such dialogue; the promotion of quality education, reform of curricula and revision of school textbooks and materials; programmes seeking to redress exclusion and an elucidation of the root causes of new forms of violence in its socio-psychological context; programmes promoting the role that media and information systems can play in furthering intercultural understanding; identification and tackling of new ignorances that cause new gaps and potential conflicts; and the need to promote and protect cultural diversity. In the context of the dialogue among civilizations,

cultures and peoples broader adherence to religions and beliefs will introduce new dimensions, to which UNESCO will have to respond.

Promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and multilingualism

36. Given the importance of striving for a more open, creative and democratic world against discrimination, exclusion and fundamentalism, UNESCO will be expected to actively promote worldwide the **principles of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and the implementation of its Action Plan. The Declaration defines “culture” as “the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and ... encompass[ing], in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”**. It draws on the conclusions of the World Conference on Cultural Policies (Mexico City, 1982), the work of the World Commission on Culture and Development (*Our Creative Diversity*, 1995) and the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1998). This recognition of the wider ambit of culture gives rise to a renewed interest in cultural policies based on the recognition of diversity within and among societies and designation of cultural diversity as the “common heritage of humanity”. The Universal Declaration, together with its Action Plan, takes up the twin challenge of cultural diversity, namely: to ensure that individuals and groups have the capacity to construct a harmonious holistic existence, drawing on intercultural dialogue within and among societies, building cultural pluralism as a policy response to the reality of cultural diversity; and to protect and enhance the numerous forms in which cultures are expressed. In other words, it entails defending creative diversity so that it may remain the focus of dialogue among cultures. Cultural diversity derives its very wealth from dialogue. The UNESCO tasks, defined in its Constitution, to promote “the fruitful diversity of cultures” and to facilitate “the free flow of ideas by word and image” are thus mutually supportive, the free flow of ideas acting as fertile seed for cultural diversity and dialogue.

37. The myriad cultural expressions in the world today, which reflect the wealth of imagination, knowledge and value systems, are both a challenge and an opportunity for a renewed dialogue leading to each person’s integration and participation in society as a whole. The opportunity can be seized only if our response is premised on the recognition of creative diversity, one that respects the value of each cultural expression, as long as such expression is consistent with respect for human rights and fundamental values. It is clear that the key ideas that must guide UNESCO’s commitment in the field of culture in the age of globalization continue to be based on the paradigm of a plural humanity, understood as dynamic processes constantly reinvented by the very inception of dialogue with each other. This commitment extends from culture to cultural diversity through intellectual and moral solidarity, cooperation for development, intercultural dialogue and the preservation of cultural diversity as the common heritage of humanity.

38. Action will include: implementation of the seven international conventions drawn up by UNESCO since the 1950s in order to preserve the many aspects of cultural diversity, viewed from the angle of both the heritage and contemporary creativity; fostering the exchange of knowledge with regard to cultural pluralism; advancing the understanding and clarifying the content of cultural rights; promoting through education an awareness of the positive value of cultural diversity; encouraging digital literacy and countering the digital divide; encouraging the production, safeguarding and dissemination of diversified cultural contents in the media and global information networks; respecting and protecting traditional knowledge; fostering the mobility of creators, artists, researchers, scientists and intellectuals; ensuring protection of copyright and related rights; consolidating cultural industries in the developing countries, and developing related cultural policies in accordance with the international obligations incumbent upon each State.

39. **Linguistic diversity** requires special attention. It must be enhanced and preserved on a global scale. To that end, the recognition of the importance of languages and the development and the promotion of policies in favour of multilingualism will need to permeate all spheres of UNESCO's competence. The related strategy will have to be based on the acknowledgement of the vital interaction between linguistic, educational and cultural diversity, and the principle of equality of all cultures and languages. Of critical importance will be the mobilization of political decision-makers, civil society and private partners in Member States.

Injecting ethical principles into globalization

40. The process of globalization and managing it is impossible without an **ethical underpinning based on shared values**. UNESCO has a unique role both in terms of conceptual approaches and of translating them into concrete frameworks, modalities and action. Human security transcends the traditional parameters of national security. The development at the regional level of ethical, normative and educational frameworks provides Member States with guidelines and best practice suggestions to tackle the manifold socio-economic problems which have already a compounded impact on the well-being of populations. In the process, UNESCO's contribution to the evolution and codification of ethics of science and technology, in particular bioethics will be of significant impact. Other areas with ethical significance are the comprehensive approach in the domain of heritage by expanding the concept from tangible to intangible heritage; the promotion of quality education introducing ethical dimensions, such as tolerance, respect for others, dialogue or respect for diversity and world heritage; the focus on the ethics of freshwater, which is most relevant especially in the WSSD follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 United Nations World Summit; the ethics dimensions of the information society, highlighted at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS); and the ethics of governance.

Harnessing science for sustainable development and peace

41. **Science and technology**, especially from the perspective of **sustainable development**, will play an increasingly central role to safeguard and enhance human security (this may range from imparting and sharing knowledge about scientific and environmental processes to action through the scientific intergovernmental programmes and scientific networking) and to empower countries building their knowledge base. **Water and the oceans** have moved to the top of the international agenda and UNESCO is being recognized for its leadership role in these two fields. Pressures on the environment, natural resource base, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods and ecosystems will increase and require more tangible contributions from UNESCO, in particular, through the provision of policy advice and capacity-building in science, technology and the environment. The resort to **renewable sources of energy** may grow due to environmental and price factors as well as the burgeoning global demand. The dramatic increase in the global demand for mineral and energy resources worldwide directs the spotlight also to the **earth sciences**. UNESCO being the only United Nations agency to pursue geology and geophysics research and training, is in a position to develop the research and capacity-building tools required in these areas. As endorsed by WSSD, the improvement of **Earth Observation** is a prerequisite for the planning of sustainable, environmentally sound socio-economic development. Over the next ten years, a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) will be developed by a group of United Nations agencies, with UNESCO being a key player. The activities are interdisciplinary and integrated and cover the fields of water-ocean-environmental earth sciences as well as natural hazards.

42. UNESCO's natural sciences programmes will likely be called to respond (and to be more reactive in their response) to natural disasters, threats to the biosphere and biological diversity and diseases as well as to the use of renewable energy. Emergencies and natural disasters will draw on one of UNESCO's significant comparative advantages pertaining to **prediction, early detection,**

building capacities and preparedness for coping with disasters and, where this is possible, prevention of **emergencies**, especially when dealing with threats that have transboundary or global dimensions requiring international solutions. Member States are increasingly recognizing that timely preventative action is often a great deal cheaper and less socially disruptive than allowing problems to build up to a scale that becomes life-threatening, requires enormously expensive interventions and induces massive economic losses. This recognition has to be translated into funding for preventative or preparedness measures on the necessary scale. Hence, integrated response plans need to focus not only on relief, recovery and reconstruction, but also on disaster preparedness and mitigation (e.g. post-tsunami response integrates plans for the establishment of an Indian Ocean Early Warning System and national capacity-building for its operationalization). It must furthermore be multi-hazard (landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, drought) and identify potential disaster risk areas.

Contributing to the fight against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases

43. Globalization is accompanied by the emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases. **HIV/AIDS**, with its inter-generational and borderless nature, poses an exceptional challenge to development, progress and stability of societies worldwide and will require much more attention and action than in the past. While dimensions and dynamics of the pandemic were apparent already some six years ago, their full scope and impact have now crystallized in much sharper terms. Increasingly, the face of HIV/AIDS is a woman's face, with women having greater vulnerability to infection due to social, cultural and physiological reasons. Young women are the most affected group in the world: According to UNFPA, they represent 67% of all new cases of HIV among people aged 15 to 24 in developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, young women represent 76% of young people living with HIV. One of the most effective means against the spread of HIV/AIDS is preventive education at all levels – and here UNESCO has begun to make valuable contributions (EDUCAIDS) which may need to be expanded in line with the mushrooming crisis. This will necessitate innovative intersectoral approaches and a particular focus of the impact of the pandemic on women and girls. Likewise efforts to alleviate the impact of HIV/AIDS, to address the spiralling costs of HIV treatment and to intensify prevention efforts must be scaled up and refined. The resource needs are enormous: between \$18 and \$20 billion are estimated to be required by 2008 from domestic and international sources to finance scaled-up programmes of prevention, treatment and care. HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination must be tackled through awareness campaigns, policies and legislation. Additional measures must be taken to fight other infectious diseases, such as malaria or tuberculosis, through a strengthening of health systems and innovative delivery approaches.

Promoting gender equality

44. Given the unequivocal international commitment to **gender equality** and empowerment of women, as expressed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, UNESCO must further reinforce its work in favour of gender equality everywhere and at all levels of its programme. In Africa, one in two eligible girls is not enrolled in primary schools, and one in five of eligible girls is not enrolled in secondary education. There is a need for a “mainstreaming +” approach to gender – including both activities targeting girls and women, and the mainstreaming of analysis, advocacy, policy development research and all levels of programme development. UNESCO will need to ensure that sectoral approaches, priorities and specific initiatives in all domains identify and address through concrete action the specific needs of women and girls.

Building knowledge societies

45. In all domains, there will be a growing **focus on global knowledge exchange, networking, policy and advocacy**. Here UNESCO must capitalize on its comparative advantage – defined by its universality, its convening capacity, its mandate and advisory role in its areas of competence, its pluridisciplinarity and its ability to mobilize and interact with various constituencies – governmental, non-governmental and the private sector. UNESCO, as a global clearing house and knowledge broker, collects, generates, processes, standardizes, synthesizes, disseminates, transfers and applies knowledge in a continuous cycle. The introduction of ICT innovations will open up opportunities for accelerating the flow of knowledge, making it more widely available and, often, enriching it in the process. UNESCO must follow a two-track approach: exploiting traditional technologies to the fullest and taking full advantage of new developments, maximizing the potential of ICTs to contribute to the realization of the MDGs. Moreover, UNESCO must more proactively integrate ICTs to shape the way in which the Organization conducts its business on a global basis. It must become more than a mere broker of knowledge, rather it must position itself to contribute to a clearer understanding of the priorities for scientific knowledge and knowledge management. Worldwide, **knowledge societies** will continue to develop and grow. As a result, there will likely be fierce competition for knowledge within a global labour market, bringing about brain drain and outsourcing. In this setting, UNESCO needs to take and adapt specific action related to its core competencies, such as issues related to the freedom of expression, access to information and knowledge, quality education, literacy and linguistic diversity.

IV. The reform of the United Nations system and its implications for UNESCO

46. The United Nations reform process is likely to have a major impact on **UNESCO's action at the global, regional and especially the country levels**. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome document Heads of State and Government pledged to “enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system” and called for reform in order to eliminate overlap and duplication in mandates and ensure stronger system-wide coherence and effectiveness. A primary objective of the United Nations reform is to ensure that all organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations can make collective, strategic contributions in response to national and international development priorities, in particular internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs, the commitments of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The central objective is to enable the United Nations to unleash its substantive, collective potential and to demonstrate its continuing relevance and effectiveness in delivering concrete results.

47. In an environment of potentially large increases in bilateral aid flows, the request for United Nations assistance and services in the area of policy advice, policy planning, policy dialogue, monitoring and evaluation and in capacity-building as a whole is likely to grow. United Nations organizations will be expected to respect fully national ownership of development strategies and programmes and national accountability for results and enhance overall effectiveness in aid delivery. There will be a continued, if not relentless emphasis on **effectiveness, efficiency, harmonization and results-orientation**. The pressure for formulating results-based targets, strategies and approaches and time-bound activities (including effective monitoring as well as mandatory sunset or review clauses) will be paramount. **Statistics and world-class analytical monitoring studies** are an increasingly important component of this function as all international activities are now being designed with reference to time-bound and measurable targets and deadlines. Although it may be easy to list criteria – for example relevance, efficiency and effectiveness – it will be far more difficult to agree on the way they should be applied.

48. The risk for United Nations institutions is mandate overlap or over-reach and a blurring of the image and profile of each institution. It is important for Member States to try to come to a common understanding of what is unique about the contribution each organization can make. In the past, there have been incidents of mission creep by some organizations, including the Bretton Woods organizations, which contributed to diminished efficiency and caused irritations or even discord among the organizations concerned. The present reform dynamics is of a calibre designed to tackle these deficiencies. In this context, there will be a premium for organizations capable of articulating, demonstrating and securing their core competencies.

49. UNESCO will need to define in a proactive manner its **roles, comparative advantages and scope of activities** in its areas of competence. This is particularly important in areas such as human rights, sustainable development, environment, or activities related to the digital divide which are being addressed by several United Nations entities and which trigger calls for a review and realignment of mandates, structure, governance arrangements and programmes. Moreover, **preserving the linkage and balance, complementarity and synergy between normative and technical/operational activities** is pivotal for allowing specialized agencies to fulfil their potential – at all levels and through upstream and downstream activities.

50. UNESCO is committed to ensuring a higher degree of **United Nations system-wide coherence** in order to reduce duplication and redundancies among the United Nations agencies, **especially at the country level**. The driving principle for United Nations reform should be responsiveness to the priorities and needs of the Member States the United Nations system serves. Accordingly, in addressing the call for improved coordination and coherence, the solutions should recognize and **draw on the full range of sectoral expertise, knowledge and resources available from within the entire United Nations system**. *One United Nations* should respect and capitalize fully on the diversity of the mandates and specialization available to Member States. *One United Nations* should also aim at harmonization, effectiveness and coherence. The achievement of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development targets need sector-specific development strategies just as they do cross-cutting development approaches.

51. **UNESCO's action will need to be clearly linked to the achievement of the common international agenda**, through focused strategic approaches in its fields of competence, raising the level of awareness and commitment given to education, science, culture, communication and information in international fora, in cooperation with all partners, including civil society. Of all the institutions in the United Nations system, UNESCO has the broadest and most varied area of competence and associated knowledge networks. While the breadth of UNESCO's mandate may be viewed as a weakness (in terms of dispersion of objectives and resources), it also constitutes a major asset at a time when interdisciplinarity is universally acknowledged as an essential tool for effectively addressing the complexity of the modern world. Nevertheless, under present constellations, the competition among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes will likely become more intense, relentless and less considerate of each other.

52. **Specialized agencies are custodians and depositaries of knowledge in their respective fields of competence**, based on a significant investment by Member States over many years in building up a wealth of information, experience, technical expertise and analytical capacity and a broad range of knowledge networks, which makes them well placed to provide evidence-based advice on policy and technology options, and to facilitate capacity-building and the transfer of knowledge.

53. At the **country level**, all measures need to be taken to allow UNESCO to be a full contributor to the common United Nations effort and to attain expected results and deliverables – in the context of the *One United Nations* agenda (one team, one leader, one programme). In its areas of

competence, the Organization will need to assume leadership roles both globally and, resources permitting, at the country level in the framework of United Nations country teams and in broader joint assistance strategies of all external donors, concentrating on select and needy countries. Increasingly, UNESCO is called to assume a role as facilitator and honest broker at country level for various stakeholders in its areas of competence.

54. Convinced that change is essential – in the sense of **re-engineering the Organization's programmes and its structure** – the Director-General has since 2000 initiated a broad-based reform which aims to equip the Organization to play an increasingly effective role in assisting its Members in the areas of its mandate, and in contributing to the broader effort by the United Nations system to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

55. Member States will likewise be called to adapt their practices, reform their participation and approaches to multilateral fora. They must adopt and pursue a consistent position vis-à-vis core issues, i.e. presenting and defending them consistently in all relevant international fora.

V. The future role of UNESCO

56. In the light of emerging global trends and new challenges, adjustments and/or reinforcements will be inevitable for UNESCO's future role, its orientations and action within the larger United Nations context. The recommendations of the **United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence** which are due by September 2006 are expected to chart the way for future reform measures affecting the entire United Nations system. Hence, this section will discuss in extenso UNESCO's views and approaches to the various dimensions of the system-wide reform effort.

57. Given the trends and challenges, it has been shown that UNESCO's **mandate** as set out in its Constitution is indeed **as relevant as ever**. At the present juncture, UNESCO is called upon to contribute in very specific and concrete ways, discussed above, to the overarching objectives of international peace and the common welfare of humanity by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture as well as through communication and information. This then lends legitimacy to UNESCO's indispensable role in world affairs today.

58. With respect to **core competencies**, UNESCO has several **clear advantages** on which it can build its future strategic location and interventions:

- its role as undisputed global specialized agency for education, natural sciences, human sciences, culture and communication, providing an indispensable link between normative and technical/operational functions;
- its designation and recognition as lead agency for complex, multi-stakeholder and long-term tasks (e.g. related to EFA through its Global Action Plan and the World Water Assessment Programme, the various decades for which UNESCO has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as lead agency, and the promotion of freedom of expression and media and information development);
- its ability to develop evidence-based policies drawing on the statistical and analytical work of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and several flagship publications, such as the EFA Global Monitoring Report or the World Water Report;

- its role as leader, manager and guardian of global lists of sites, inscribed upon request of Member States, such as for World Heritage, Biosphere Reserves or Intangible Cultural Heritage.

59. The definition of core competencies must be translated into activities in which UNESCO must **attain, retain or reinforce capacity for excellence** in focused and conceptually well-defined key areas, both in the immediate and longer-term, coupled with an **identification of activities that could be terminated** if others can do them better. This will require a determination of areas that are shared – de facto or de jure – with many other multilateral institutions, where UNESCO can only work in conjunction with other actors and where it must assert its own distinctive features, bringing its “added value” into play.

60. In terms of **advocacy** and **global coordination functions**, the benchmark for effective United Nations system organizations is increasingly linked to their ability to contribute to the global agenda and development goals. UNESCO will need to intensify and solidify its efforts and timely performance with respect to several long-term initiatives – EFA (and in particular its Global Action Plan); quality education as a whole; education for sustainable development (ESD); literacy; water; dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples.

61. As the **real world challenges are multi-dimensional**, UNESCO must increasingly develop and deliver its programme through **intersectoral action**. While interdisciplinarity has certainly progressed in recent years, much remains to be done to provide a critical mass and added value of genuinely interdisciplinary approach to many problems, that is, one that is more than a juxtaposition of sectoral efforts. UNESCO’s mission is unique and the fields over which it distributes its actions can only be understood as parts of a holistic system.

UNESCO’s comparative advantage

62. UNESCO contributes to all the three areas identified in the World Outcome document – **development, humanitarian assistance and the environment** – by establishing competences in key areas.

63. In all three areas, UNESCO believes that the linkage between the **global normative, policy, advocacy and monitoring functions, and operational activities** of the specialized agencies at country, subregional and regional levels, needs to be preserved. The linkage and interdependency between normative and operational activities is essential; there must be a “feedback” loop between the two. Indeed, normative work is not initiated in a vacuum; it is a response to on-the-ground experiences, which are then translated into universal principles or guidelines. These can only prove their viability and impact once they are translated into concrete action (at the operational level). The experience derived from implementation is then part of the feedback loop that informs (refines, modifies) the normative work – in a sense, a virtuous circle – and should not be broken.

64. With regard to **development**, the very need for normative work arises from practical problems on the ground; similarly, for policy advice to be relevant and cogent, it needs to be continuously refreshed by up-to-date information and situation-specific knowledge.

65. With regard to the **environment**, UNESCO has built up expertise in several key areas, such as freshwater and the oceans, which has been recognized by assigning to it lead roles in the United Nations inter-agency mechanisms United Nations-Water and United Nations-Oceans. Indeed, UNESCO with some 200 operational experts has today the strongest and most wide-ranging freshwater programme of all United Nations entities. The designation of the Organization as lead agency for the United Nations-wide World Water Assessment Programme is expression of this

strength. This standing has been acquired as a result of the elevation of water as one of the principal priorities of the Organization over a period of three programmes and budgets, as well as through UNESCO's interdisciplinary approach to the question of freshwater management. UNESCO's action in freshwater is based on four interlinked pillars: (i) UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP); (ii) the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education; (iii) the United Nations system-wide World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) led by UNESCO in close cooperation with the other agencies linked through the United Nations-Water; and (iv) the rapidly expanding network of water centres established under UNESCO's auspices. These pillars support UNESCO's comparative advantage in several areas of freshwater management, and in particular in water education and capacity-building.

66. UNESCO recognizes the importance of strengthening the coordination of **humanitarian assistance**, including OCHA. It is a particular concern to UNESCO that the transition from humanitarian assistance to reconstruction and development is well coordinated and ensures coherence in the United Nations system's long-term role. UNESCO has a technical role to play and is regularly called upon by Member States, even during the earliest stages of post-conflict and post-disaster situations, to address the human, more than the physical, aspects of recovery and reconstruction, such as education, media capacity-building or cultural heritage protection.

The country level – the principal arena for United Nations reform

67. Both developing countries and contributors will insist that decentralized action be **well coordinated and integrated with that of other United Nations agencies, programmes and funds**, benefiting from UNESCO's involvement in global inter-agency activities and in United Nations country teams. Hence, action must increasingly be located at the level at which international cooperation can be carried out most effectively. It must demonstrate results and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, manage effectively emergency/post-crisis situations, and strengthen relationships with United Nations organizations at all levels, enhance cooperation with regional and subregional bodies and cooperate with a broad range of other partners.

68. Indeed, the **country level will be the principal arena for demonstrating effectiveness of interventions and results, alignment with country priorities, harmonization with United Nations system organizations and other donors**. Nevertheless, pure upstream policy advice may decrease in importance at the expense of concrete **empowerment and capacity development**. Hence, the consolidation and broadening of UNESCO's decentralization function and the adoption of country programming approaches and modular contributions to national development plans will become critical.

69. This trend will require at least three approaches:

- (a) **Putting national development strategies and plans at the centre of UNESCO's country-level action**: this will include involvement in national programming processes (including CCA/UNDAFs, PRSPs, Joint Assistance Strategies) and involvement in country-level United Nations programme cycle that is fully synchronized with the national planning cycle.
- (b) **Strengthening national capacities** in education, science, culture and communications – meaning by that the strengthening of UNESCO's national counterpart capacities to manage and implement the national development process and to develop and adopt coherent and effective national policies. UNESCO institutes will need to play an important role in this process.

- (c) **Increasingly using and strengthening national systems** (in particular in the area of sector reporting, monitoring and evaluation, annual performance reviews, progress reports) to reduce transaction costs.

70. The *One United Nations* approach at the country level, to which UNESCO is committed, implies that the programmes and activities should be developed in such a manner as to be inclusive of the mandates and missions of all parts of the United Nations system. UNESCO considers that, in order to be true to the *One United Nations* concept, the **Resident Coordinators (RCs)** must be perceived as **representative of the whole United Nations system**, and not as accountable solely to UNDP. This would avoid any conflict of interest for UNDP, as RCs would be delivered from their functions as Resident Representatives of UNDP and assume full responsibility for the diversity of competencies across all United Nations system entities. Ideally, the RC system should be attached to the office of the United Nations Secretary-General. As such, RCs would act and be seen as impartial, objective and neutral leaders, to which the entire United Nations Country Team would readily rally. Practically speaking, however, the RC system should at present continue to be managed by UNDP on the understanding that: (i) UNDP withdraws from the operational activities falling under the mandates of the other agencies; (ii) UNDP focuses primarily on issues of governance, cross-cutting MDG work, early recovery and aid coordination; and (iii) competent agencies with sectoral expertise are asked to take the lead in thematic groups, who would maintain direct contacts with line ministers in accordance with their mandates (e.g. for education, culture, health and agriculture) while ensuring the overall coherency. UNESCO supports the activities of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) along the principle of “managed pluralism”.

71. UNESCO attaches high importance to a continued and intensified participation in **country-level programming activities**, such as CCA, UNDAF and PRSPs. It needs to be recognized, however, that the specialized agencies should be able to contribute in accordance with their constitutional mandate and their core competencies, as captured in sectoral development strategies (such as for education, culture, health and agriculture). Such recognition should be based on the wealth of expertise, knowledge and networking power residing with specialized agencies, rather than on the volume of funding that the specialized agencies can contribute. **Thematic leadership** by representatives from specialized agencies within UNCTs would highlight and strengthen such contributions by specialized agencies and enhance overall United Nations system coherence at the country level.

72. In order to demonstrate its commitment to the specific aspect of the *One Programme* objective, UNESCO is ready to step up its involvement, advocacy and resource allocation in UNDAF exercises. However, due to its limited resources, UNESCO needs to be selective in its decentralization policy and prioritize countries in need or in post-conflict situations.

73. UNESCO’s country-level presence is mainly ensured through the arrangements established within UNESCO’s current decentralization scheme – such as through cluster, national and regional offices, as well as antennas or national UNESCO programme officers hosted by UNDP offices. But another important dimension of UNESCO, and one of its comparative advantages, is the existence of mechanisms at the national and local level, namely the global network of National Commissions for UNESCO as well as the network of associated NGOs and UNESCO Clubs that go beyond the “national office” concept.

74. UNESCO supports the establishment of **United Nations system common premises and services** at the country level where they prove to be more cost-effective and result in improved country programme implementation. The differing conditions and variables in country circumstance require that each proposal is considered on a case-by-case basis. Harmonization and coherence do not necessarily equate with consolidation – there is a range of different models of successful

cooperation at the country level, including in Jamaica, Jordan and Nigeria. It would be irresponsible to ignore the cost savings offered to the specialized agencies by national authorities through the provision of premises free of charge unless the benefits of common services greatly exceed the economies of these hosting arrangements. It is with these qualifications that UNESCO would be interested in participating in current models to share common services.

75. UNESCO is also prepared to make arrangements for its participation as a **Non-Resident Agency (NRA)** in the CCA/UNDAF processes, initially on a pilot basis in a selected number of Member States. The specialized agencies believe that United Nations Resident Coordinators should adopt and support a fully participatory approach in exercising their responsibilities, especially for NRAs, which UNESCO Headquarters would seek to facilitate. Alternative arrangements need to be identified so that the scope of competencies of these NRAs can be present in as many countries as possible, without necessarily having permanent offices or staff. There are many possibilities available through the use of ICTs. Any United Nations reform at the country level should facilitate alternative arrangements put in place in both conceptual and strategic terms as well as in day-to-day operations and processes.

76. In order to achieve *One United Nations* at the country level, it will also be essential to review the **inter-agency architecture**. UNESCO's membership of UNDG since 2001 has led to a better understanding of the need for more holistic and integrated approaches to global and national policy development. It has prompted UNESCO's involvement in a number of country-level activities. Based on this experience and its appreciation of the potential of UNDG, UNESCO believes that it is **timely to revisit the processes and governance of UNDG** so as to ensure that it is fully reflective of the diversity and specialization of the mandates and expertise available throughout the United Nations system. A review could look at the possibility of establishing a mechanism for reconciliation in cases of conflict arising from the preparation of country-level programming documents, preferably under the auspices of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The intention would also be to strengthen CEB's profile as the principal tool for United Nations system-wide coherence at the policy and operational levels.

77. UNESCO also needs to enhance its **capacity to respond to immediate problems, including post-conflict and post-disaster situations** while at the same time, the Organization must maintain its focus on the longer-term implications of issues. In so doing it must also respond to the wish of its Members that it adapt to their evolving requirements for services, and achieve even greater efficiency and impact in the use of its resources.

Modalities for cooperation

78. UNESCO's Member States will increasingly look to the Organization for **capacity-building** assistance to enable them to participate effectively in the evolving and increasingly complex international environment. The thematic focus of capacity-building activities will vary over time and necessitate different mixes, but one of the principal tasks will be to assist Member States in the complex and long-term process of acquiring, adapting, strengthening, and maintaining capacities related to themes of major and emerging significance, including key capacities like policy-making, planning and monitoring. An increased use of ICTs will buttress these efforts. In strategic terms, capacity-building will increasingly need to aim at the creation and operation of high-quality, self-sustaining institutions, which in turn are capable of integrating and offering training for individuals, and especially women, rather than supporting a large volume of individual and uncoordinated training. **New modalities of cooperation and knowledge-sharing**, most notably South-South cooperation, will become more important, as well as national ownership, alignment with national plans and the use and integration of national and local expertise.

79. UNESCO will need to broaden and deepen its links beyond its traditional **partners** in the public sector, including regional and subregional organizations, and to engage more effectively with NGOs, the private sector, parliamentarians, chambers of commerce, local government entities, professional associations, religious leaders and other stakeholders. In this regard, the National Commissions play a key role, providing the link between cooperation upstream with governments and cooperation downstream with civil society and the private sector. How can the Organization's impact be amplified by developing and expanding alliances, partnerships and joint activities? How can such partnerships be used or extended to reach communities and individuals, in particular those who are still "excluded" from existing knowledge networks?

80. In sum, across all programmes, action will need to:

- accentuate UNESCO's role as a knowledge, learning and capacity-building organization, with an important function in identifying, disseminating and promoting best practices;
- strengthen UNESCO's coordinating role in addressing major challenges, such as EFA, ESD, water, ethics of science and technology, culture of peace, freedom of expression and media development;
- amplify the Organization's impact by expanding alliances, partnerships and joint programmes with organizations having similar goals;
- enhance responsiveness, transparency and communication with Members and all stakeholders and excel in media advocacy;
- focus on resource mobilization activities to increase the Organization's crucial contribution to development in operational and normative terms.

81. In practical terms, implementing these approaches will call for:

- consolidating decentralization to regional, subregional and country levels;
- strengthening mechanisms for knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary approaches, taking full advantage of the potential of ICTs;
- providing flexible means of action;
- streamlining business processes, introducing greater delegation of authority and clarified accountabilities, and focusing on staff training and motivation;
- reinforcing monitoring, evaluation and oversight of all programmes.

82. The question may not be so much "what future for UNESCO", but "**what UNESCO for the future**". Faced with a complex, rapidly changing world, and a fiercely competitive environment, UNESCO needs to develop its responsiveness, flexibility and adaptability, advocacy, ability to build multi-stakeholders coalitions, and ability to mobilize and implement resources – at the global, regional and country levels.

ANNEX

GENERAL CONFERENCE 33 C/RESOLUTION 64

(adopted at the thirty-third session of the General Conference on 20 October 2005)

The General Conference,

Inspired by the continuing relevance of UNESCO's Constitution, 60 years after its adoption, and the need to re-read the Constitution in this regard to address the challenges of the twenty-first century,

Guided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document,

Desirous of maintaining the vitality and effectiveness of the Organization and of enhancing its capacity to contribute to international cooperation in its domains – education, science and culture, as well as communication and information – and to the national development of Member States,

Underlining the special role accorded to the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, especially as standard-setters, policy advisers, policy advocates and builders of human and institutional capacities in Member States,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Asia and the Pacific group for its timely and important initiative;
2. *Considers* it desirable for a thorough and broad-based reflection and review to be undertaken, in the context of UNESCO's Constitution, with a view to:
 - (a) ensuring a succinct articulation of the core competencies of UNESCO in each of its domains;
 - (b) providing a clear programmatic definition of UNESCO's place, orientations and functions in the United Nations system;
 - (c) specifying the policy and programmatic lead roles that have already been entrusted to or should be asserted by UNESCO;
 - (d) clarifying the position to be assumed and the contribution to be made by the Organization in the multilateral context, at the global and regional levels as well as at the country level;
 - (e) identifying innovative measures to involve civil society in UNESCO's deliberations and programme implementation, especially through the work of the National Commissions;
 - (f) specifying UNESCO's role as a catalyst for harnessing the energy of the private sector;
 - (g) designing innovative structures and decentralization modalities, benefiting from synergies with existing facilities and resources, which may enable the Organization to deliver top-notch services and ensure high-quality impact and results in a timely manner (e.g. through scientific programmes, category 2 institutes, UNITWIN networks, the

ASP Network, and greater interaction and cooperation with the United Nations University);

3. *Expresses* its desire to achieve a clear concentration of the programme around thematic issues/clusters which is aimed at the realization of attainable results, and is furthermore reflected in resource allocation;
4. *Underlines* the critical importance of working to ensure tangible recognition of and high visibility for UNESCO's mission and activities so as to secure understanding and support for its mission among policy-makers, experts in various fields and, especially, among the public at large;
5. *Highlights* the positive impact of well-defined flagship programmes and projects with a positive track record, both in programmatic terms and in terms of public information approaches;
6. *Requests* the Director-General, in consultation with the President of the General Conference and the Chair of the Executive Board, to lead a global consultation on the long-term future role of UNESCO – using the modalities, *inter alia*, of the forthcoming regional consultations on documents 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 – with the Permanent Delegations, the National Commissions, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with UNESCO, youth constituencies, including delegates to previous youth fora, and other United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations University;
7. *Further requests* the Director-General to prepare for this global consultation a succinct and engaging discussion paper identifying issues, trends and challenges of relevance for the future role of UNESCO, including themes identified at the 33rd session of the General Conference and taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Task Force on UNESCO in the Twenty-First Century (160 EX/48);
8. *Requests* the Director-General to draw on the results of this ongoing global consultation in the preparation of his vision and proposals for the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, and to present a brief report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Conference at its 34th session.

Explanatory note:

The occasion of the 60th anniversary of the birth of UNESCO has motivated the Asia and the Pacific group to discuss the question of the future of UNESCO, both visionary and programmatic, in several of its plenaries, and this was further discussed in an Asia and the Pacific working group. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, re-reading the Constitution of UNESCO to discover its probable under-utilized capacities and to elaborate on the visionary insight that was in the minds of its founders could equip us to better face the new challenges of our age vis-à-vis UNESCO. Constructing the defences of peace in the minds of men and founding that peace upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind is a sacred task which deserves continuous oversight to mobilize even further various relevant resources. The prospect of the world in front of us indicates that this oversight is indeed what we need for a more visible and effective UNESCO in the future, to ensure its original function of intellectual watchtower and moral conscience of the United Nations family.