PART ONE

Chapter 1
The United Nations Organization
THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

The name “United Nations”, coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was first used in the “Declaration by United Nations” of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

States first established international organizations to cooperate on specific matters. The International Telecommunication Union was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, and the Universal Postal Union was established in 1874. Both are now United Nations specialized agencies.

In 1899, the first International Peace Conference was held in The Hague to elaborate instruments for settling crises peacefully, preventing wars and codifying rules of warfare. It adopted the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes and established the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which began work in 1902.

The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances during the First World War, and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles “to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security.”

The International Labour Organization was also created under the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League. The League of Nations ceased its activities after failing to prevent the Second World War.

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States, in August-October 1944. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries, Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 member states.

The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year.

United Nations Charter

(www.un.org/aboutun/charter)

The Charter is the constituting instrument of the Organization, setting out the rights and obligations of member states, and establishing the United Nations organs and procedures. An international treaty, the Charter codifies the major principles of international relations — from the sovereign equality of states to prohibition of the use of
Amendments to the United Nations Charter

The Charter may be amended by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratification by two thirds of the members of the United Nations, including the five permanent members of the Security Council. So far, four Charter Articles have been amended, one of them twice:

- In 1965, the membership of the Security Council was increased from 11 to 15 (Article 23) and the number of affirmative votes needed for a decision was increased from seven to nine, including the concurring vote of the five permanent members for all matters of substance rather than procedure (Article 27).
- In 1965, the membership of the Economic and Social Council was increased from 18 to 27, and in 1973, was increased to 54 (Article 61).
- In 1968, the number of votes required in the Security Council to convene a General Conference to review the Charter was increased from seven to nine (Article 109).

force in international relations in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Preamble to the Charter

The Preamble to the Charter expresses the ideals and common aims of all the peoples whose governments joined together to form the United Nations:

"WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

"AND FOR THESE ENDS to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

"HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS. Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations."

Purposes and principles

The purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, are:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends.

The United Nations acts in accordance with the following principles:

- it is based on the sovereign equality of all its members;
- all members are to fulfill in good faith their Charter obligations;
- they are to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and without endangering international peace and security and justice;
- they are to refrain from the threat or use of force against any other state;
- they are to give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the Charter;
- nothing in the Charter is to authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.

Membership

Membership of the United Nations is open to all peace-loving nations which accept the obligations of the Charter and are willing and able to carry out these obligations.

The General Assembly admits new member states on the recommendation of the Security Council. The Charter provides for the suspension or expulsion of a member for violation of the principles of the Charter, but no such action has ever been taken.
Official languages

Under the Charter, the official languages of the United Nations are Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Arabic was later added as an official language of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

Structure of the Organization

The Charter established six principal organs of the United Nations: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat. The United Nations family, however, is much larger, encompassing 15 agencies and several programmes and bodies.

General Assembly

(www.un.org/go)

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ. It is composed of representatives of all member states, each of which has one vote. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.

Functions and powers

Under the Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly include:

- to consider and make recommendations on the principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms regulation;
- to discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is being discussed by the Security Council, to make recommendations on it;*
- to discuss and, with the same exception, make recommendations on any question within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;

* Under the "Uniting for peace" resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in November 1950, the Assembly may take action if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of its permanent members, fails to act where there appears to be a threat to international peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression. The Assembly is empowered to consider the matter immediately with a view to making recommendations to members for collective measures, including, in case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression, the use of armed forces when necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.

- to initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields;
- to make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation, regardless of origin, which might impair friendly relations among nations;
- to receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs;
- to consider and approve the United Nations budget and to apportion the contributions among members;
- to elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council and additional members of the Trusteeship Council (when necessary); to elect jointly with the Security Council the Judges of the International Court of Justice; and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General.

Sessions

The General Assembly's regular session usually begins each year in September. Beginning with its fifty-eighth regular session (2003-2004), the Assembly will open on Tuesday of the third week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day. The election of the President of the Assembly, as well as its 21 Vice-Presidents and the Chairpersons of its six main committees, will take place at least three months before the start of the regular session. To ensure equitable geographical representation, the presidency of the Assembly rotates each year among five groups of states: African, Asian, Eastern European, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Western European and other states.

In addition, the Assembly may meet in special sessions at the request of the Security Council, of a majority of member states, or of one member if the majority of members concur. Emergency special sessions may be called within 24 hours of a request by the Security Council on the vote of any nine Council members, or by a majority of the United Nations members, or by one member if the majority of members concur.

At the beginning of each regular session, the Assembly holds a general debate, often addressed by heads of state and government, in which member states express their views on the most pressing international issues. Most questions are then discussed in its six main committees:

- **First Committee** (Disarmament and International Security);
- **Second Committee** (Economic and Financial);
• Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural);
• Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization);
• Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary);
• Sixth Committee (Legal).

Some issues are considered directly in plenary meetings while others are allocated to one of the six main committees. Resolutions and decisions, including those recommended by the committees, are adopted in plenary meetings — usually before the recess of the regular session in December. They may be adopted with or without a vote.

The Assembly generally adopts its resolutions and decisions by a majority of members present and voting. Important questions, including recommendations on international peace and security, the election of members to some principal organs and budgetary matters, are decided by a two-thirds majority. Voting may be conducted as a recorded vote, a show-of-hands or a roll-call vote.

While the decisions of the Assembly have no legally binding force for governments, they carry the weight of world opinion, as well as the moral authority of the world community.

The work of the United Nations year-round derives largely from the mandates given by the General Assembly — that is to say, the will of the majority of the members as expressed in resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly. That work is carried out:

• by committees and other bodies established by the Assembly to study and report on specific issues, such as disarmament, peacekeeping, development and human rights;
• in international conferences called for by the Assembly; and
• by the Secretariat of the United Nations — the Secretary-General and his staff of international civil servants.

Security Council
(www.un.org/Docs/sc)

The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council has 15 members: five permanent — China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States — and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

Each member has one vote. Decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of at least 9 of the 15 members. Decisions on substantive matters require nine votes and the absence of a negative vote by any of the five permanent members.

All five permanent members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but does not wish to cast its veto, it may choose to abstain — thus allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine votes in favour.

Under Article 25 of the Charter, all members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, the Council alone has the power to take decisions which member states are obligated under the Charter to implement.

Functions and powers

Under the Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council include the following:

• to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
• to formulate plans for establishing a system to regulate armaments;
• to call upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means;
• to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction, and to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
• to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
• to call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisional measures as it deems necessary or desirable to prevent an aggravation of the situation;
• to call on members of the United Nations to take measures not involving the use of armed force — such as sanctions — to give effect to the Council's decisions;
• to resort to or authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security;
• to encourage the peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements and to use such regional arrangements for enforcement action under its authority;
• to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice;
• to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question;
to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of new members to the United Nations.

The Security Council is so organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters. The Council may meet elsewhere: in 1972 it held a session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; in 1973 it met in Panama City, Panama; and in 1990 it met in Geneva, Switzerland.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may set forth principles for a peaceful settlement. In some cases, the Council itself undertakes investigation and mediation. It may dispatch a mission, appoint special envoys or request the Secretary-General to use his good offices.

When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's first concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. The Council may issue ceasefire directives that can be instrumental in preventing an escalation of the conflict.

The Council may also dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, keep opposing forces apart, and create conditions of calm from which peaceful settlements may be sought. Under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council may decide on enforcement measures, including economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial sanctions, travel bans or collective military action.

The sanctions instrument is an important tool available to the Security Council in seeking to promote international peace and security. Each of the sanctions regimes currently in existence features "smart" or targeted sanctions — arms embargoes, financial sanctions and travel bans — designed to eliminate or minimize unintended effects by focusing on those responsible for the policies condemned by the international community, while leaving other parts of the population and international trade relations unaffected (see Chapter 2).

After the 1991 Gulf war, the Council established the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) to verify, together with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. UNSCOM's responsibilities were taken over in 1999 by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC).

The Council has established two international criminal tribunals to prosecute crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. The tribunals are subsidiary organs of the Council. Following the terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001, the Council established its Counter-Terrorism Committee, also a subsidiary organ.

Since 1993, a working group of the General Assembly has been considering Security Council reform, including the issue of equitable representation and expansion of membership.

Economic and Social Council
(www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc)

The Charter established the Economic and Social Council as the principal organ to coordinate the economic, social and related work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and institutions — known as the United Nations family of organizations. The Council has 54 members, who serve for three-year terms. Voting in the Council is by simple majority; each member has one vote.

Functions and powers

The functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council are:

- to serve as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system;
- to make or initiate studies and reports and make recommendations on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters;
- to promote respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- to assist in preparing and organizing major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and promote a coordinated follow-up to these conferences;
- to coordinate the activities of the specialized agencies, through consultations with and recommendations to them, and through recommendations to the General Assembly.

Through its discussion of international economic and social issues and its policy recommendations, ECOSOC plays a key role in fostering international cooperation for development and in setting the priorities for action.

Sessions

The Council generally holds several short sessions and many preparatory meetings, round tables and panel discussions with the members of civil society throughout the year, to deal with the organization of its work. It also holds a four-week substantive session in July, alternating between New York and Geneva. That session includes a high-level segment, attended by Ministers and other high officials, to discuss major economic, social and humanitarian issues. The year-round work of the Council is carried out in its subsidiary and related bodies.

Subsidiary and related bodies

The Council's subsidiary machinery includes:
• Nine functional commissions, which are deliberative bodies whose role is to consider and make recommendations on issues in their areas of responsibility and expertise: Statistical Commission, Commission on Population and Development, Commission for Social Development, Commission on Human Rights, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and Commission on Sustainable Development.

• Five Regional Commissions: Economic Commission for Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand), Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, Switzerland), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile), and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Beirut, Lebanon).

• Six standing committees and expert bodies: Committee for Programme and Coordination, Commission on Human Settlements, Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and Committee on Public Administration.

• A number of expert bodies on subjects such as development planning, natural resources, economic, social and cultural rights, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The Council also cooperates with and to a certain extent coordinates the work of United Nations programmes (such as UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT and UNFPA) and the specialized agencies (such as FAO, WHO, ILO and UNESCO), all of which report to the Council and make recommendations for its substantive sessions.

Relations with non-governmental organizations

Under the Charter, the Economic and Social Council consults with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with matters within its competence. Over 2,100 NGOs have consultative status with the Council. The Council recognizes that these organizations should have the opportunity to express their views, and that they possess special experience or technical knowledge of value to its work.

The Council classifies NGOs into three categories: category I organizations are those concerned with most of the Council’s activities; category II organizations have special competence in specific areas; and organizations that can occasionally contribute to the Council are placed on a roster for ad hoc consultations.

NGOs with consultative status may send observers to meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and may submit written statements relevant to its work. They may also consult with the United Nations Secretariat on matters of mutual concern.

Over the years, the relationship between the United Nations and affiliated NGOs has developed significantly. Increasingly, NGOs are seen as partners who are consulted on policy and programme matters and seen as valuable links to civil society. NGOs around the world, in increasing numbers, are working daily with the United Nations community to help achieve the objectives of the Charter.

Trusteeship Council

(www.un.org/documents/tc)

The Trusteeship Council was established by the Charter in 1945 to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories placed under the administration of 7 member states, and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government or independence. The Charter authorized the Trusteeship Council to examine and discuss reports from the Administering Authority on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of Trust Territories; to examine petitions from the Territories; and to undertake special missions to the Territories.

By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence, either as separate states or by joining neighbouring independent countries. The last to do so was the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau), which became the 185th member state.

Its work completed, the Trusteeship Council — its membership reduced now to the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) — has amended its rules of procedure to meet as and where occasion may require.

International Court of Justice

(www.icj-cij.org)

Located at The Hague, in the Netherlands, the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Its Statute is an integral part of the United Nations Charter.

The Court is open to all states that are parties to its Statute, which include all members of the United Nations. Only states may be parties in contentious cases before the Court and submit disputes to it. The Court is not open to private persons and entities or international organizations.

The General Assembly and the Security Council can ask the Court for an advisory opinion on any legal question. Other organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, when authorized by the Assembly, can ask for advisory opinions on legal questions within the scope of their activities.
Jurisdiction

The Court’s jurisdiction covers all questions that states refer to it, and all matters provided for in the United Nations Charter, or in international treaties and conventions. States may bind themselves in advance to accept the jurisdiction of the Court, either by signing a treaty or convention that provides for referral to the Court or by making a declaration to that effect. Such declarations accepting compulsory jurisdiction often contain reservations excluding certain classes of disputes.

In accordance with its Statute, the Court decides disputes by applying:

- international conventions establishing rules expressly recognized by the contesting states;
- international custom as evidence of a general practice accepted as law;
- the general principles of law recognized by nations; and
- judicial decisions and the teachings of the most qualified scholars of the various nations.

Membership

The Court is composed of 15 Judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council, voting independently. They are chosen on the basis of their qualifications, and care is taken to ensure that the principal legal systems of the world are represented in the Court. No two Judges may be from the same country. The Judges serve a nine-year term and may be re-elected. They cannot engage in any other occupation during their term of office.

The Court normally sits in plenary session, but may form smaller units called chambers if the parties so request. Judgments given by chambers are considered as rendered by the full Court. The Court also has a Chamber for Environmental Matters and forms annually a Chamber of Summary Procedure.

Secretariat

(www.un.org/documents/st)

The Secretariat — consisting of international staff working in duty stations around the world — carries out the diverse day-to-day work of the Organization. It serves the other principal organs of the United Nations and administers the programmes and policies laid down by them. At its head is the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term.

The duties carried out by the Secretariat are as varied as the problems dealt with by the United Nations. These range from administering peacekeeping operations to mediating international disputes, from surveying economic and social trends to preparing studies on human rights and sustainable development. Secretariat staff also inform the world’s communications media about the work of the United Nations; organize international conferences on issues of worldwide concern; and interpret speeches and translate documents into the Organization’s official languages.

The Secretariat has a staff of about 7,500 under the regular budget, drawn from some 170 countries. As international civil servants, staff members and the Secretary-General answer to the United Nations alone for their activities, and take an oath not to seek or receive instructions from any government or outside authority. Under the Charter, each member state undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff, and to refrain from seeking to influence them improperly.

The United Nations, while headquartered in New York, maintains a significant presence in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva, Nairobi, Santiago and Vienna, and has offices all over the world.

Secretary-General

(www.un.org/News/oss/sg)

Equal parts diplomat and advocate, civil servant and CEO, the Secretary-General is a symbol of United Nations ideals and a spokesman for the interests of the world’s peoples, in particular the poor and vulnerable. The current Secretary-General, and the seventh occupant of the post, is Mr. Kofi Annan of Ghana, who took office on 1 January 1997 and was subsequently re-elected to a second five-year term (2002-2006).

The Charter describes the Secretary-General as “chief administrative officer” of the Organization, who shall act in that capacity and perform “such other functions as are entrusted” to him or her by the Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and other United Nations organs. The Charter also empowers the Secretary-General to “bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security”. These guidelines both define the powers of the office and grant it considerable scope for action. The Secretary-General would fail if he did not take careful account of the concerns of member states, but he must also uphold the values and moral authority of the United Nations, and speak and act for peace — even at the risk, from time to time, of challenging or disagreeing with those same member states.

This creative tension accompanies the Secretary-General through day-to-day work, which includes attendance at sessions of United Nations bodies; consultations with world leaders, government officials, representatives of civil society groups, the private sector and others; and worldwide travel intended to keep him in touch with the peoples of member states and informed about the vast array of issues of international concern that are on the Organization’s agenda. Each year, the Secretary-General issues a report on the work of the Organization that appraises its activities and outlines future priorities.
The General Assembly, meanwhile, has continued to consider several questions of institutional change that fall under its authority, including the size and composition of the Security Council, methods of financing the Organization and bringing greater coherence to the wider United Nations system of specialized agencies.

Africa. The Secretary-General has sought to maintain a focus on Africa and to mobilize international support for the continent’s efforts to chart a path to peace and higher levels of development. His approach is encapsulated in a 1998 report, “The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”, which contains a comprehensive set of “realistic and achievable” measures designed to reduce political tension and violence within and between African states, and to address such development issues as governance, debt, trade, official development assistance and the spread of diseases such as AIDS. He has also established an Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to promote and coordinate a system-wide response by the United Nations in support of Africa’s development — particularly in implementing the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

Peace operations. The 1990s saw an upsurge in United Nations peacekeeping and peacemaking activities and dramatic changes in the nature of conflict itself — primarily a decline in conflicts between states and a rise in the frequency and brutality of conflicts within states. Difficult experiences in responding to these complex humanitarian emergencies have led the Secretary-General to place great emphasis on ensuring that the United Nations, when asked to undertake a peace operation, is fully equipped to do so — militarily, financially and politically.

In addition to measures contained in the Secretary-General’s reform plans, three key reports have contributed to this effort. The first, requested by the General Assembly and submitted by the Secretary-General in 1999, examined the atrocities committed against the Bosnian Muslim population in 1995 in the United Nations-designated “safe area” of Srebrenica. The second, commissioned by the Secretary-General and released in 1999, was an independent inquiry, led by former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The third, an initiative of the Secretary-General released in 2000, was a comprehensive review of United Nations peace and security activities by a high-level panel appointed by the Secretary-General and chaired by former Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi. This report, intended to draw conclusions for the future from the other two, contains wide-ranging recommendations for the Secretariat and the member states, particularly those serving on the Security Council. Implementation of many of these proposals has helped improve the Organization’s capacity to deploy and manage complex peacekeeping and peace-building operations, even if the full value of these improvements will be realized only over time.

Global Compact. In 1999, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Secretary-General proposed a “Global Compact” that would bring private
corporations together with UN agencies, governments, labour and non-governmental organizations to advance nine universally recognized principles in the areas of human rights, labour and the environment.

The Global Compact has grown rapidly since its official launch in July 2000, when 50 companies pledged their support. As of June 2004, the network of participants included nearly 1,500 companies worldwide, international labour groups and dozens of civil society organizations. The Compact is now rooted in more than 70 countries, most in the developing world. It has inspired dozens of projects and initiatives, including a project to promote business and investment in the world’s least developed countries, and an agreement by the International Organization of Employers and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to work together in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS. In April 2001, the Secretary-General issued a "Call to Action" to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic — which he described as his "personal priority" — and proposed the establishment of a Global AIDS and Health Fund to serve as a mechanism for some of the increased spending needed to help developing countries confront the crisis. The Fund became operational in 2002.

Budget of the United Nations

The regular budget of the United Nations is approved by the General Assembly for a two-year period. The budget is initially submitted by the Secretary-General and reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, made up of 16 experts who are nominated by their governments and elected by the General Assembly but who serve in their personal capacity. The programmatic aspects are reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, made up of 34 experts who are elected by the General Assembly and who represent the views of their governments.

The budget approved for the biennium 2004-2005 is $3.16 billion — representing zero per cent growth in real terms from the 2002-2003 biennium. The budget covers the costs of United Nations programmes in areas such as political affairs, international justice and law, international cooperation for development, public information, human rights and humanitarian affairs.

The main source of funds for the budget is the contributions of member states. These are assessed on a scale approved by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions, made up of 18 experts who serve in their personal capacity and are selected by the General Assembly on the recommendation of its Administrative and Budgetary (Fifth) Committee.

The fundamental criterion on which the scale of assessments is based is the capacity of countries to pay. This is determined by considering their relative shares of total gross national product, adjusted to take into account a number of factors, including their per capita incomes. The Committee completely reviews the scale of assessments every three years, on the basis of the latest national income statistics, to ensure that assessments are fair and accurate. In 2000, the Assembly fixed a maximum of 22 per cent of the budget for any one contributor.

The overall financial situation of the United Nations has been precarious for several years because of the continuing failure of many member states to pay, in full and
on time, their assessed contributions. The United Nations has managed to continue to operate thanks to voluntary contributions from some countries and to its Working Capital Fund (to which member states advance sums in proportion to their assessed contributions), and by borrowing from peacekeeping operations.

Member states’ unpaid contributions to the regular budget totalled just under $442 million at the end of 2003. Out of 191 assessed member states, 127 had paid their assessments in full, while the remaining 66 had failed to meet their statutory financial obligations to the Organization.

In addition to the regular budget, member states are assessed for the costs of the international tribunals and, in accordance with a modified version of the basic scale, for the costs of peacekeeping operations.

Peacekeeping costs peaked at $3 billion in 1995, reflecting in particular the expense of operations in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, but were down to $889 million in 1999. By the end of 2001, the annual cost of United Nations peacekeeping had again risen to just over $3 billion — reflecting major new missions in Kosovo, East Timor (now Timor-Leste), Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Eritrea and Ethiopia. By 1 July 2003, the approved budgets for the following 12 months were just under $2.2 billion.

Outstanding contributions for peacekeeping operations at the end of 2003 totalled nearly $1.1 billion. Shortfalls in the receipt of assessed contributions were met by delaying reimbursements to states that had contributed troops, equipment and logistical support, thus placing an unfair burden on them.

United Nations funds and programmes — such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) — have separate budgets. The bulk of their resources is provided on a voluntary basis by governments, and also by individuals, as in the case of UNICEF. The United Nations specialized agencies also have separate budgets, which are supplemented through voluntary contributions by states.

The United Nations family of organizations
(www.un.org)

The United Nations family of organizations (the “United Nations system”) consists of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations funds and programmes (such as UNICEF and UNDP), the specialized agencies (such as UNESCO and WHO) and related organizations. The funds and programmes are subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly. The specialized agencies are linked to the United Nations through special agreements and report to the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly. The related organizations — including IAEA and the World Trade Organization — address specialized areas and have their own legislative bodies and budgets. Together, the organizations of the UN system address all areas of economic and social endeavour.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The CEB — formerly known as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) — represents the entire UN system. Its members are the Executive Heads of 27 organizations, including the United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and related organizations. Its purpose is to facilitate increased coordination of the UN system in the pursuit of the common goals of member states on a wide range of concerns. Chaired by the Secretary-General, the CEB meets twice a year to consider the substantive and management issues facing the UN system. Its work is carried out, in part, by subsidiary bodies, each of which focuses on a particular aspect of coordination within the system. (See http://ceb.unsystem.org)

United Nations Secretariat
(www.un.org/documents/st)

The United Nations Secretariat consists of departments and offices, described below. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General, composed of the Secretary-General and his senior advisers, establishes general policies and provides overall guidance to the Organization. The Secretariat has its headquarters in New York and offices in all regions of the world.

Three main centres of activities are in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), headed by Director-General Sergei Alexandrovich Odkhominikze (Russian Federation), is a centre for conference diplomacy and a forum for disarmament and human rights. The United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), headed by Director-General Antonio Maria Costa (Italy), is the headquarters for activities in the fields of international drug-abuse control, crime prevention and criminal justice, peaceful uses of outer space and international trade law. The United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), headed by Director-General Klaus Tøpfer (Germany), is the headquarters for activities in the fields of environment and human settlements.

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)
(www.un.org/Depts/oios)

Under-Secretary-General
Mr. Dileep Nair (Singapore)

The Office of Internal Oversight Services provides independent, professional and timely internal audit, including monitoring, inspection and evaluation, as well as management consulting and investigation services. It aims to be an agent of change that promotes responsible administration of resources, a culture of accountability and transparency, and improved programme performance. The Office:

- monitors and evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of programmes and mandates;
- conducts comprehensive internal audits;
The United Nations

Subsidiary Bodies
- Military Staff Committee
- Standing Committee and ad hoc bodies
- International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
- UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (Iraq)
- United Nations Compensation Commission
- Peacemaking Operations and Missions

Programmes and Funds
- UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
- UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
- UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
- UNHCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- WFP: World Food Programme
- UNRWA³: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UN-NDP: United Nations Development Programme

Research and Training Institutes
- UNICRI: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNRISD: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
- INTRAW: International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women

Other UN Entities
- OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNU: United Nations University
- UNSC: United Nations System Staff College
- UNAIDS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Functional Commissions
- The Commission for Social Development
- The Statistical Commission

Regional Commissions
- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Other Bodies
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)
- United Nations Forum on Forests
- Inter-agency and standing committees
- Expert, ad hoc and related bodies

Related Organizations
- WTO: World Trade Organization
- IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
- CTBTO: Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty Organization
- OPCW: Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Specialized Agencies°
- ILO: International Labour Organization
- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- WHO: World Health Organization
- WB: World Bank Group
- IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- IDA: International Development Association
- IFC: International Finance Corporation
- MIGA: Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- ICSID: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- IMF: International Monetary Fund
- ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization
- IMO: International Maritime Organization
- ITU: International Telecommunication Union
- UPU: Universal Postal Union
- WMO: World Meteorological Organization
- WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization
- IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development
- UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- WTO: World Trade Organization

Departments and Offices
- OSG: Office of the Secretary-General
- OIOS: Office of Internal Oversight Services
- OLA: Office of Legal Affairs
- DPA: Department of Political Affairs
- DDA: Department for Disarmament Affairs
- DPKO: Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- OCHA: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- DESA: Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- DGACM: Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- DPI: Department of Public Information
- DM: Department of Management
- OHRLS: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ONUDC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNESOCORD: Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator
- UNOG: United Nations Office at Geneva
- UNOV: United Nations Office at Vienna
- UNON: United Nations Office at Nairobi

Notes: Solid lines from a Principal Organ indicate a direct reporting relationship; dashes indicate a non-subordinate relationship. The UN Drug Control Programme is part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. UNRWA and UNIDO report only to the GA. The World Trade Organization and World Tourism Organization use the same acronym. IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA). The CTBTO PrepCom and OPCW report to the GA. Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of the ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level.