

Economic and Social Affairs

Economic and Development Issues

Development Bodies and Programs

UN Development Program (UNDP)

Headquartered in New York, the UN Development Program (UNDP) is the leading development agency of the United Nations, with a presence in 136 countries. The United States is a member of its 36-state governing body, the Executive Board. Mark Malloch Brown (United Kingdom) was appointed UNDP Administrator by the UN Secretary-General in 1999.

Promoting democracy and prosperity around the world is a top U.S. foreign policy priority. Through participation in the UNDP, the United States ensures that the organization's policies and activities reflect this priority. UNDP's strategic framework for 2004–2007 includes the following five "core goals": (1) reducing human poverty; (2) fostering democratic governance; (3) managing energy and environment for sustainable development; (4) supporting crisis prevention and recovery; and (5) responding to HIV/AIDS. The United States played a key role in adopting these goals to guide UNDP operations. UNDP is also a valuable partner in post-conflict transition and peace building and promoting democratic governance in many parts of the world, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Liberia.

In 2004, the United States continued to encourage UNDP to improve its management and results-oriented programming. The Department of State worked closely with UNDP on a U.S. Office of Management and Budget Program Assessment Rating Tool Review. This review required the United States, in consultation with UNDP, to set up goals, targets, and indicators to measure management and program performance. The evaluation found UNDP management and program systems to be effective.

The United States also urged UNDP in 2004 to implement the recommendations of the Commission on the Private Sector and Development, which UNDP helped to launch in 2003. UNDP publicized the report of the Commission in many developing countries, and formed partnerships with private firms to promote development as a follow-up. The United States continued to urge UNDP to help developing countries nurture indigenous entrepreneurs and private sectors, a key recommendation of the Commission.

U.S. efforts to direct UNDP to emphasize democracy and entrepreneurship as a path to achieve development were resisted by some Executive Board members. UNDP allocates a portion of its resources to developing countries according to a needs-based formula. The United States would prefer distribution of resources based on performance.

UNDP obtains its funding through voluntary contributions. In 2004, the United States, the UNDP's top contributor, gave over \$101 million to the general budget, and over \$144 million to specific projects and activities. In 2004, UNDP employed about 5,808 people, of whom 2,521 were professionals. U.S. citizens occupied 157 of the professional positions.

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The UN Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a permanent forum for discussions on trade, finance, and development issues, functions through a variety of intergovernmental groups. These include its governing body, the Trade and Development Board, and Commissions on Trade, Investment, and Enterprise. Based in Geneva, UNCTAD currently has 190 members. UNCTAD's Secretary-General, Rubens Ricupero (Brazil), retired in 2004; he was to be replaced in September 2005 by the former Director General of the World Trade Organization, Supachai Panikpakdi (Thailand).

In 2004, UNCTAD held expert meetings on competition law and policy, the financing of commodity-based trade, international standards of accounting and reporting, and good governance in investment promotion. In June, it held its quadrennial ministerial conference, UNCTAD XI, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This meeting produced two documents, the Sao Paulo Consensus and the Spirit of Sao Paulo, which will guide UNCTAD's work over the next four years.

The United States has been an active participant in UNCTAD since its founding in 1964. The United States believes that trade and investment are the main engines of development and has strongly encouraged UNCTAD's work on trade and investment facilitation. It has also worked to bring greater focus and more modern management to UNCTAD in line with the general reform initiatives underway at the United Nations. In 2004, U.S. representatives participated in UNCTAD XI and in reviews of UNCTAD programs, several of which were curtailed or eliminated. The United States also worked closely with other member states to reduce the number and length of UNCTAD's inter-governmental meetings, while expanding its technical work on issues of practical importance to member states.

In 2004, the United States joined other member states in encouraging UNCTAD to increase its technical assistance activities, particularly in areas that can help ensure that developing countries participate beneficially from processes of globalization. This includes work on investment promotion, trade and transport facilitation, and customs reform. UNCTAD is the source for the most widely used automated customs data program in the developing world, a useful tool in controlling crime and reducing corruption in transport. Its Debt Information Management System also helps many states keep track of commercial and official debt obligations. Likewise, UNCTAD's investment policy reviews are valuable tools for member states and investors alike. These reviews assess the progress individual developing countries have made in establishing a legal and regulatory framework conducive to investment.

Its \$115 million biennial budget is funded from the UN regular budget; the United States pays 22 percent. UNCTAD's technical assistance activities are funded separately through trust fund arrangements established by individual donors (primarily European countries). The United States did not contribute to any of these trust fund arrangements in 2004. In 2004, UNCTAD had 330 professional staff in 2004, of whom eight were U.S. citizens.

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established in December 1992 by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a functional commission to follow up implementation of the Rio Earth Summit's goals. Based at UN Headquarters in New York, it is composed of 53 UN or UN agency members, elected to three-year terms. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, governments called for specific reforms of the CSD, including limiting negotiations in the sessions of the Commission to every two years, limiting the number of themes addressed at each session, and having CSD serve as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices.

The United States has been a member since the Commission's inception. Following the WSSD, the United States worked actively to advance ideas for how the CSD could implement its reforms to serve as a stronger catalyst for action. (See <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/sus/csd/2003> for a series of discussion papers the United States produced in early 2003 regarding the future of the CSD.) At the CSD's 11th session in 2003, the United States worked closely with other CSD members to develop a multi-year program of work that addresses a series of "thematic clusters" and cross-cutting issues in two-year "implementation cycles." The first cycle (2004–2005) focused on water, sanitation, and human settlement issues. Each two-year cycle includes a non-negotiating "review year" to assess the state of implementation and a venue to focus on sustainable development partnerships and capacity building activities. The second half of each cycle will be a "policy year" to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year.

Under Secretary for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky led the U.S. delegation to the CSD "Review Session," its 12th session, in April 2004. The delegation included representatives from a wide range of U.S. government agencies. The session demonstrated a new way of doing business, with a series of highly interactive plenary discussions on water, sanitation, and human settlements. More than 100 ministers representing diverse portfolios attended the High-Level Segment—more than twice the number that attended the 11th session. Some 67 different partnerships, including many involving U.S. agencies, participated in the session's "Partnerships Fair." The event highlighted efforts by governments, the private sector, civil society, and other

organizations to plan and implement voluntary partnerships that promote economic growth, social development, and environmental stewardship (see <http://www.sdp.gov>). The CSD's Learning Center gave practical, hands-on training to some 500 participants through its 18 courses, including several organized jointly by the Smithsonian Institution and the UN Development Program. The session concluded with the issuance of a Chair's summary report. The report, which was later adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly, identified key constraints to achieving internationally agreed goals on water, sanitation, and human settlements, and pointed the way forward to advancing implementation.

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The UN General Assembly created the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1946 to meet the emergency needs of children after World War II. UNICEF has broadened its efforts to help children by providing both humanitarian assistance and long-term development aid targeted at children and families. UNICEF is active in 157 countries, with programs addressing children's health, sanitation, nutrition, basic education and protection needs wherever possible through low-cost interventions at the family and community levels. In humanitarian crises, UNICEF normally takes the lead in infant and maternal health care, supplemental nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and protection issues.

As a respected authority on children and their well-being, UNICEF typically works through broad partnerships with developing countries, bilateral donors, and nongovernmental organizations. UNICEF programs target vulnerable and marginalized children and their families, and are intended to improve the capacity of national governments to respond to their needs. Although the United States in 2004 worked to ensure that UNICEF maintained strong operational capabilities to supply humanitarian assistance, an increasing share of its work was tied to capacity building, piloting and disseminating best practices, and conducting research on the problems affecting children.

In 2004, the United States supported the appointment of former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman as the successor to UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy. The United States has been a member of UNICEF's Executive Board, now comprised of 36 members serving three-year terms, since the Fund's inception. The current U.S. term that began in 2003 runs until 2006.

UNICEF has capabilities to provide rapid and cost-effective delivery of medicines and materials, a cornerstone of its work to promote child survival. UNICEF procured vaccines for 40 percent of children in developing countries and worked to ensure not only the distribution, but also the development and availability of life-saving vaccines and drugs for children. For example, in close partnership with Rotary International, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control, UNICEF facilitated more than a 99.6 percent reduction in the incidence of polio from an estimated

350,000 cases per year in 1988 to 1,266 cases in 2004; UNICEF and WHO declared the Americas, Europe, and Western Pacific polio-free.

In line with U.S. concerns, UNICEF increased malaria prevention efforts and procured 7.3 million insecticide-treated bednets (up 41 percent from 2003). Educational supplies worth \$71 million supported UNICEF programs that reached 5 million students in Iraq alone. Re-establishing a learning environment using “school-in-a-box” kits is a central element of UNICEF’s humanitarian response since gathering children in a fixed location facilitates complementary efforts in basic health and child protection, and contributes to a restoration of normalcy.

In 2004, the United States supported UNICEF in taking a leadership role in promoting the family in the context of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. In response to interest by the U.S. delegation, UNICEF hosted several international events on the family highlighting the crucial nexus between an involved and caring mother and father and healthy children.

Also in 2004, the United States actively shaped the development of a new strategic plan for 2006–2009 by raising concerns about investments in basic health programs, recognition of the central role of the family in child well-being, and utilization of a results-based approach to programming. The draft plan showed marked improvement in these areas, and anchored UNICEF around five focal areas of child survival, education, HIV/AIDS, child protection, and policy support.

The United States continued to push UNICEF to play a leadership role in efforts to harmonize and simplify UN development activities, particularly at the country level. In dealing with joint programming between UNICEF and other UN agencies, the United States succeeded in counteracting efforts by other members to encourage UN agencies to pool funds and collaborate as an end in itself. Instead, UNICEF will take a more strategic approach toward working with its partners. Collaboration will be based on evidence of efficiency and/or gains in programming, will take account of the need to maintain distinct lines of financial accountability to donors, and will recognize the separate identities and roles of UN agencies.

In 2004, the UNICEF budget totaled roughly \$1.9 billion, provided entirely through voluntary contributions. Of this amount, governments contributed \$1.3 billion. An additional \$578 million came from private sources. The United States, the largest single donor, contributed \$119 million to non-earmarked resources and an additional \$156 million in earmarked contributions. UNICEF employed 8,066 people in 2004, 385 of whom were Americans.

UN-HABITAT

The UN General Assembly converted the 58-member UN Center on Human Settlements to a full program of the General Assembly, the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) in 2001. UN-HABITAT’s work focuses on the development of sustainable human settlements with

access to basic services, such as water and sanitation. UN-HABITAT is also the UN focal point for efforts to achieve the Millennium Declaration goal of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The creation of the new UN-HABITAT program marked a significant achievement in the U.S. reform agenda. The United States had pressed for an overhaul of the former Center after the 1996 Habitat II Conference in Istanbul and had cut off voluntary contributions to the Center. Following the complete restructuring of the organization by new management, the United States supported granting of program status and resumed modest voluntary contributions, mostly from reprogrammed funds.

UN-HABITAT is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, and is led by Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka (Tanzania), who was elected by the General Assembly for a four-year term in July 2002 after having served since September 2000 as Director of the Center on Human Settlements. UN-HABITAT's Governing Council meets every two years, most recently in May 2003. States are elected to the Governing Council through regional groups for four-year terms. The United States was re-elected in 2002 for another term by the Western Europe and Other Group.

UN-HABITAT's activities in 2004 were aligned with U.S. objectives on economic freedom, good governance, democracy building (through decentralization of power to local authorities), gender equality, and the mobilization of domestic resources. The United States worked to clarify UN-HABITAT's role as a catalyst that advances work on human settlements through research and data-collection and capacity-building work, supplemented by operational activities including pilot projects. Overall, the United States believed that UN-HABITAT performed its role as a catalyst well, co-hosting a successful international event on human settlements with the city of Barcelona, but that it needed to focus more on consolidating many small programs, trust funds, and other mechanisms into a coherent whole.

The Second World Urban Forum held September 12–17 in Barcelona was a major event bringing together a broad spectrum of experts from all levels of government, the private sector, and academia to exchange and debate solutions to the problems confronting the billion slum dwellers of the world. U.S. participants, including four mayors, two high-ranking U.S. officials, and private sector representatives, had a rare opportunity to engage in a public dialogue with counterparts and local officials to discuss issues such as property rights, private investment, and good governance. The official U.S. delegation hosted or co-hosted several interactive presentation sessions on topics related to housing finance, and sponsored a well-attended training course teaching local administrators about financial mechanisms such as municipal bonds.

In order to assist developing countries in managing urbanization, UN-HABITAT gathers data on cities and promotes best practices in fields related to human settlements and the role of local authorities. Its technical arm works with local authorities and national governments to develop and decentralize

services. In 2004, UN-HABITAT published its biennial State of the World's Cities, an extensive compendium of research information and best-practices for both policy-makers and technical experts. Highlighting the ongoing demographic shift from a rural to urban world, the report documented changes in the urban environment and offered examples of innovative approaches to meeting the challenges of the 1 billion people who currently live in slums. The United States assisted HABITAT with some of its methodological work, and further exchanges are likely.

UN-HABITAT also conducted global campaigns to promote improved urban governance, and to promote secure tenure of housing and land. These aimed to facilitate access to credit, and include advocating the rights of women to equal treatment, including property inheritance. These campaigns were conducted through advocacy, research publications, and technical cooperation on legislative and policy reform.

In 2004, funding for UN-HABITAT's work came from voluntary contributions to UN-HABITAT's programs (\$32.7 million) which was supplemented by UN regular budget funds (\$8.3 million). Additionally, UN-HABITAT executed technical cooperation projects (construction work) worth \$64 million on behalf of other UN agencies and donor countries. In 2004, the United States contributed \$745,575 to UN-HABITAT's core program. UN-HABITAT employed 126 professional staff in 2004, seven of whom were American.

Environment

UN Environment Program (UNEP)

The UN Environment Program (UNEP), founded in 1972, is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, and has six regional offices in Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia. Its Governing Council consists of 58 member states, including the United States. The UN General Assembly elects members from different regional groupings for four-year terms. UNEP's Executive Director, Klaus Töpfer (Germany), was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2002 after being re-nominated for that position by the UN Secretary-General.

In 2004, the United States provided funding to support operation of the Secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent. In addition, the United States was the main supporter of the UNEP Mercury Program, which aimed to help countries reduce global mercury risks.

The United States strongly supported work done in UNEP core programs, such as early warning and assessment of environmental threats, the regional seas program, capacity building for domestic environmental governance in developing countries, and the global program of action to combat land-based sources of marine pollution. The United States valued

UNEP's monitoring, assessing, and publicizing of emerging environmental trends. In 2004, the United States delegation spearheaded successful efforts to conduct critical budgetary and programmatic reviews in the UNEP Governing Council. Responding to suggestions by the United States, UNEP improved its budget process by making it more transparent.

In 2004, the United States was instrumental in the negotiations culminating in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, which included U.S. priorities such as mainstreaming capacity building within the regular programs of UNEP. As a part of this effort to focus UNEP's programs on implementation, the United States encouraged UNEP to strengthen its links with scientific institutions and assist developing nations to improve their ability to monitor and assess environmental change.

In addition, the United States cooperated closely with UNEP on several important initiatives. In Iraq, UNEP's Post Conflict Assessment Unit worked closely with the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on a variety of activities, most notably on efforts to help the Iraqi Ministry of the Environment develop environmental legislation. The United States participated in several UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics technical meetings on the Mesopotamian marshlands. UNEP's Post Conflict Assessment Unit worked closely with the United States on forest related issues and provided general assistance to the Government of Liberia to strengthen environmental offices.

UNEP facilitated the U.S. Clean Energy Initiative by hosting the Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment database and by leading action on the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, an effort of a broad coalition of international organizations, industry groups, and governments to foster the widespread use of clean fuels and environmentally sound vehicle technologies. The United States provided funding. Due to UNEP-led work, over 50 percent of the gasoline in Africa was lead-free by the end of 2004, and most of the continent was on track to phase lead out of gasoline by the end of 2005.

UNEP's Kingston Regional Seas Office coordinated the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, working closely with the private sector, governments, and nongovernmental organizations. The Kingston Regional Seas Office program also facilitated the U.S.-initiated White Water to Blue Water partnership, which focused on sound marine transportation, sustainable tourism, integrated watershed management, and marine eco-system based management.

UNEP's core budget for the 2004–2005 biennium was \$131 million. The United States made a voluntary contribution of \$10.9 million to UNEP and related activities in 2004. Twenty-two U.S. citizens worked at UNEP at the end of 2004, out of a total of 487 professional employees.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force in March 1994. There are currently 188 parties to the UNFCCC. The United States ratified the convention in 1992. The UNFCCC

promotes stabilization of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. The UNFCCC parties adopted the Kyoto Protocol in December 1997. Russia ratified the Kyoto Protocol in September 2004, thereby meeting the 55 percent threshold of global CO₂ emissions that is required for the Protocol to enter into force. This Protocol requires developed nations to reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2 percent below 1990 levels during the period 2008–2012 (7 percent below 1990 levels for the United States). However, because the Kyoto Protocol exempts developing countries, including some of the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gases, from binding emission targets and because of the harm it would cause to the U.S. economy, President Bush announced in March 2001 that the United States would not ratify the Protocol. This decision is consistent with the recommendation of Senate Resolution 98, approved in July 1997 by a vote of 95 to 0.

The United States engaged in extensive international efforts on climate change, both through bilateral and multilateral activities. The UNFCCC’s Tenth Conference of the Parties, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December 2004, provided an opportunity for high-level dialogue on “the Convention after 10 years,” adaptation, mitigation, and technology. The United States used the opportunity to highlight its multilateral scientific and technological efforts to promote cooperation and progress on climate change. The Conference also approved the Buenos Aires Program of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures, a program for advancing adaptation concerns under the UNFCCC. Continued U.S. participation in and support for the UNFCCC helped advance U.S. approaches to climate change issues.

The United States contributed \$3.4 million to the UNFCCC in 2004. Four of the UNFCCC’s 78 professional staff were U.S. citizens.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 as a joint effort of the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Program. The IPCC conducts periodic assessments of studies on the science of climate change, its potential impacts, and ways countries adapt and seek to mitigate climate change. In 2004, the IPCC organized its comprehensive Fourth Assessment Report, which will be developed by several hundred experts over the next three years.

Continued U.S. participation and support for the IPCC helped ensure that international actions to address climate change were informed by up-to-date, peer-reviewed scientific and technological information.

In 2004, the United States contributed \$2.2 million to the IPCC. A U.S. citizen chaired the IPCC’s Working Group I on science.

Population

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) provides funding for population and reproductive health programs in over 140 countries. UNFPA supports maternal, child, and reproductive health and family planning programs worldwide and works on the issues of gender empowerment, child marriage, and violence against women. UNFPA provides assistance in the framework of three to five year country plans, which are developed jointly with the recipient country and approved by the Executive Board.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid (Saudi Arabia), the Executive Director of UNFPA, was appointed in 2001 by the UN Secretary-General. The Secretary-General extended her tenure for another term, which will end in December 2008. The United States is a member of UNFPA's Executive Board and participates actively in the decision-making processes to safeguard its interests. In 2004, the Executive Board approved 10 country programs, approved extension of one program, took note of 14 draft country programs and comments made thereon, and took note of implementation of one special program of assistance.

The United States has made no contributions to UNFPA since fiscal year 2002. In July 2002, the Secretary of State determined that UNFPA's support of, and involvement in, China's population-planning activities allows the Chinese Government to implement more effectively its program of coercive abortion, and that, therefore, the Kemp-Kasten Amendment precluded funding of UNFPA at that time. In July 2004, the Secretary determined that, because UNFPA continued its support and involvement in China's coercive birth limitation program in counties where China's restrictive law and penalties are enforced by government officials, the Kemp-Kasten Amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriation Act continued to preclude U.S. funding of UNFPA.

UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

The UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD) advises the UN Economic and Social Council on population changes, including migration, and their effects on economic and social conditions. It is also charged by the General Assembly to monitor, review, and assess implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994.

The CPD held its 37th session in New York March 22–26 and May 6. The central theme of the session was review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program of Action of the ICPD. The United States emphasized the importance of assuring that international assistance efforts, including in basic health, family planning, and education, reach the most disadvantaged. The United States joined consensus on a resolution on follow-up to the ICPD Program of Action, but made an Explanation of Position emphasizing that the United States did not interpret

any language in the resolution or any of the documents it cited as promoting abortion. The Commission also adopted a resolution on the work program in the field of population.

Regional Economic Commissions

The UN regional economic commissions include the Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. These bodies are charged with “raising the level of economic activity” within their respective regions and “maintaining and strengthening the economic relations” of the countries within their scopes, “both among themselves and with other countries of the world.” The regional commissions are funded out of the regular UN budget, of which the United States pays 22 percent. Many of their activities are financed by extra-budgetary grants from bilateral and multilateral donors. The United States is a member of ECE, ECLAC, and ESCAP. U.S. participation in regional commissions advances and safeguards U.S. foreign policy and commercial interests in these regions.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was established in 1947 to encourage economic cooperation within Europe and between Europe and other countries with close trade and business ties. At the end of December 2004, ECE membership consisted of 55 Western Europe nations, as well as the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Israel, and the Central Asian and Caucasian states of the former Soviet Union. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Executive Secretary Brigita Schmognerova (Slovak Republic) to her position in 2002.

The ECE is traditionally a “standards setting” and coordination body in many technical fields, such as in e-commerce, energy, environment, vehicle construction, road safety, timber and agricultural produce, border crossing, and statistical collection. Many ECE standards are adopted around the world. Many U.S. Government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation, regularly participate in ECE working groups and chair committees.

At its 59th annual session, held February 24–26, 2004, the ECE reviewed developments of 2003 and approved the hiring of a team of external evaluators to create a list of recommendations for ECE reform. During 2004, the ECE drafted terms of reference and selected a team to begin, in January 2005, an evaluation of its activities. Also during 2004, the ECE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to cooperate on the basis of their respective competencies and resources.

The ECE is funded out of the UN regular budget. In 2004, the ECE was funded at \$27.5 million; the United States contributed 22 percent of this amount. Out of the total Secretariat staff of about 200 at ECE headquarters, Americans held 10 positions.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was established in 1948 and had 41 member states as of December 2004. The United States is a full member with voting privileges. ECLAC also has seven Associate Members, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Commission is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, with two sub-regional offices for Mexico and for the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago). It also has offices in Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Washington, D.C. Executive Secretary Jose Luis Machinea (Argentina) has headed the organization since December 2003.

ECLAC's mission is to improve cooperation among member states and international entities in order to advance economic and social development in the region. Although it previously advocated closed markets and state-run economies, ECLAC has come to recognize that there are benefits associated with trade liberalization and privatization.

ECLAC held its 30th Biennial Session in Puerto Rico, June 28–July 2, 2004. This session included an Ad Hoc Meeting of the ECLAC Committee on Population and Development, that adopted a resolution endorsing the implementation of recommendations from the Santiago International Commission on Population and Development (2003) and the Mexico City Conference on Women (2004). At the 30th Biennial Session, the United States issued an Explanation of Position reaffirming the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994) contingent on the understanding that the declaration adopted at that conference did not create new rights, including any right to abortion, or create any legally binding obligations on states under international law.

ECLAC received funding of \$32.5 million through the UN regular budget in 2004, of which \$7 million came from the U.S. assessment. Out of 195 professional staff at ECLAC headquarters, five were Americans.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was established in 1947, and is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand. Fifty-three nations are members of ESCAP and nine non-self-governing territories hold associate member status, three of which are U.S. territories in the Asia and Pacific region, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands. The United States is a full member of ESCAP.

ESCAP gives technical support to member governments on a wide array of socio-economic development issues. ESCAP's activities include the provision of direct advisory services; the training and sharing of regional

experiences; and the dissemination of knowledge and data through meetings, seminars, publications, and inter-country networks.

Since his appointment in July 2000, Executive Secretary Dr. Kim Hak-Su (Republic of Korea) has focused ESCAP on poverty alleviation, which is a dominant concern for many countries. Dr. Kim's institutional reforms went into effect in January 2003, outlining a new structure with the following three main thematic committees: Poverty Reduction, Managing Globalization, and Emerging Social Issues. The United States continues to be a strong supporter of these reform initiatives.

ESCAP met for its annual session during the period April 22–28, 2004. The theme for the session was “Meeting the Challenges in an Era of Globalization by Strengthening Regional Development Cooperation.” The U.S. representative delivered a statement on two sets of issues related to globalization: trade and governance at the national level. The statement highlighted U.S. trade agreements in the region that have set high standards for openness and transparency. He also stressed that ultimately it is the quality of governance at the national level that is the most important determinant of a country's capacity to sustain economic growth, eradicate poverty, and bring the benefits of globalization to its people.

In addition to approximately \$33.3 million received from the UN regular budget, ESCAP also receives voluntary extra-budgetary contributions, primarily for its workshops and other technical assistance programs. The U.S. share of the funds received from the UN regular budget totals approximately \$7.3 million. The United States also made a voluntary contribution of \$150,000 to an ESCAP narcotics demand-reduction initiative. Of the 155 professional positions in the ESCAP Secretariat, 11 were held by American citizens.

Social Issues

Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development is a functional body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that meets annually to advise ECOSOC on social policies and issues. The 46-member Commission is the key UN body for review of the implementation of the outcome of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. The priority theme at the 42nd session of the Commission, held in New York February 4–13 and 20, 2004, was improving public sector effectiveness, especially in providing equitable, adequate, and accessible social services to all, and improving dialogue and partnership between countries and between public and private sectors. The U.S. delegation took a leading role in the discussion on the related topics of encouraging governments to uphold the rule of law, combat corruption, and promote and protect human rights. The United States also joined consensus to recommend that ECOSOC adopt a resolution calling for “Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development” that

stressed the need for renewed political will to invest in people and their well-being, in order to advance social development.

In 2004, countries and societies around the globe celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The U.S. Government actively welcomed and supported the commemoration of this vital institution. At the policy level, the United States pushed the Commission to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that included references to the family as the basic social unit of society and the responsibilities of both parents in raising their children. The United States also initiated a draft resolution at the Commission on fatherhood. Separately, the United States led the General Assembly to consensus on a resolution celebrating the Tenth Anniversary. The need to redouble efforts regarding maternal mortality was addressed by an expert panel organized by the United States. These measures reinforced U.S. policy that stable families are the core of a healthy and productive society. In furtherance of this, the United States participated in related international activities such as the International Conference on Family (in Doha, Qatar), ECOSOC's High Level Segment, International Family Day programming at the United Nations, and the World Family Policy Forum. The U.S. Mission to the United Nations arranged the use of UN premises for American nongovernmental organization International Federation for Family Development's 16th International Family Conference. Throughout the year, senior U.S. officials, including First Lady Laura Bush, advocated defending and strengthening the institution of the family. The United States subsequently submitted a report for the General Assembly's consideration on the situation and policy of family in the United States entitled "A Celebration of the Family—Observance of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family."

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The UN General Assembly decided in 2001 to establish an *ad hoc* committee to determine whether there was a need for a human rights convention that would focus exclusively on the situation of persons with disabilities. During the Second Ad Hoc Committee session in June 2003, member states determined that the creation of a new international instrument would be beneficial. The United States, a leader in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, advocated that the best way to protect the rights of persons with disabilities was through the enactment and enforcement of national legislation. Consequently, the United States decided to act as an expert resource for the Committee in the process of considering a convention, while not intending to accede to a new international agreement.

In 2004, a Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of designated member states and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), prepared a draft text of a Convention, and the full UN Ad Hoc Committee reconvened for two two-week sessions as it continued the work of elaborating an international agreement. At the Committee's third session, which convened May 24–June 4, it heard proposals from nearly 40 countries for amendments to

the Working Group text, but there was little detailed discussion of these proposals. The United States did not have occasion to intervene in the plenary discussions of textual amendments. It did, however, participate in a Japanese-sponsored seminar on the concept of reasonable accommodation, an area of considerable U.S. expertise, and held a briefing for NGOs to explain the U.S. position on the Convention.

The fourth session of the Ad Hoc Committee, which met August 23–September 3, similarly made incremental progress. The Committee finished a first reading of the draft text, began a second reading, and had a detailed discussion of four draft articles. During the discussion, the U.S. delegation lent its expertise on domestic disability law and practice as well as selected matters of international law and practice. The United States organized a panel discussion on “civic access” for persons with disabilities under domestic law, led by disability experts from the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services and from the U.K. and Australian delegations, and continued to meet with U.S. NGOs. The UN Committee’s negotiations are expected to continue at least through 2006.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) is the principal UN policy-making body on criminal justice issues. The 40-member Commission convenes annually in Vienna. Many decisions from these annual sessions are forwarded to the UN Economic and Social Council (or occasionally to the UN General Assembly) for endorsement.

The 13th session of the Crime Commission convened May 11–20, 2004, in Vienna. The theme of the Commission was rule of law in promoting development. The Commission produced 20 resolutions, including several resolutions drafted or cosponsored by the United States in the areas of terrorism prevention, countering money laundering, asset-sharing, and promoting the recently completed UN Convention against Corruption. These resolutions direct the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) towards areas where it has relevant expertise and can best complement U.S. bilateral assistance efforts. During the session, the United States voiced its strong support for efforts to promote the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and urged other states to join in contributing resources for this work. The United States also indicated its intention to support similar UNODC-led efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption.

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force on September 29, 2003. Pursuant to article 321 of the Convention, a Conference of the Parties (COP) to the convention was established to improve the capacity of States Parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of this convention. The United States participated in the first COP, held from June 28–July 9, 2004, in Vienna. Despite initial concerns about a limited U.S. role as a signatory and not a

party, the U.S. delegation was able to participate fully in negotiation throughout the session. Countries arrived at an agreement balancing the need to focus on reviewing implementation of the criminalization provisions of the convention and protocols, and permitting consideration of international cooperation and technical assistance to deal with problems that may be identified.

The United States joined consensus in supporting Thailand's offer to host the 11th Crime Congress to be held in Bangkok in 2005. The theme of the Congress will be "Synergies and responses: strategic alliances against transnational crime."

International Drug Control

Both the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board, based in Vienna, support U.S. drug control objectives. The UN drug control conventions (the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) provide the framework for international drug control, including prohibiting cultivation of opium, cocaine, and marijuana; targeting drug traffickers and their proceeds; promoting national campaigns on drug abuse prevention and treatment; and regulating precursor chemicals used in the production of illicit drugs.

U.S. support during 2004 had significant impact on the operations and expansion of UN counternarcotics programs and policy. UNODC used funds provided by the United States to support global programs to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, enhance precursor chemical control, and provide legal advice on treaty implementation. Specifically, the UNODC used the U.S. contribution to fund major alternative development projects in Laos and chemical control projects in East, South, and Central Asia, as well as judicial/prosecutorial training in Africa.

The 53-member UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), of which the United States has been a member since 1946, is the central policy-making body within the UN system for dealing with drug-related matters. The CND held its 47th session in Vienna March 15–19, 2004. During the regular CND session, delegates reviewed the worldwide activities and management of the UNODC and were briefed on various aspects of the global narcotics situation, with special emphasis on synthetic drugs classed as Amphetamine Type Stimulants.

The United States achieved its major goals during the CND session, including the adoption of the U.S. cosponsored resolution on the unauthorized international sale of licit controlled substances over the Internet. In addition, the United States strongly supported a resolution on strategic management, encouraging UNODC to continue to develop a results-oriented, strategic framework for its work, incorporating program evaluation and good governance as key pillars in the ongoing efforts to solidify the merging of the

drugs and crime programs. Other resolutions of particular interest focused on treatment of opiate-dependent persons, chemical precursor control, and efforts to combat the drug trade in Afghanistan.

The UNODC's assessed budget for 2004 was approximately \$15.5 million, of which the United States paid 22 percent, or \$3.4 million. In addition, the United States made a voluntary contribution of \$18 million (23 percent of total voluntary contributions). In 2004, UNODC employed 177 professionals; 17 were American citizens.

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

The 13-member International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is an independent, quasi-judicial control body, which has a mandate to promote government compliance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties and to assist governments in this effort. The Board meets periodically to monitor the implementation of the drug control treaties and the international movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Retired Ambassador Melvin Levitsky, former Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, was elected to the Board in October 2003. Although board members serve in their individual capacity, the presence of an American viewpoint is invaluable to promote U.S. policy interests.

The INCB presented its annual report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2004. The INCB noted an 11 percent reduction in youth drug use in the United States, and corrected a misstatement in the report questioning these results. The INCB criticized the use of various harm reduction policies, singling out drug injection rooms, stating they contravened drug conventions, and that many other harm reduction policies verged on contravention of those conventions. The United States endorsed the INCB position on harm reduction and noted that the United States rejects "any initiative that condemns persons to a lifetime of drug addiction, for whatever reason, including the convenience of the community."

Human Rights

Status of Women

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established in 1946 as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, seeks to improve the situation of women in the areas of political participation, economic opportunity, social development, health, and education. The United States has successfully used the annual CSW meetings to highlight U.S. activities to improve conditions for women throughout the world. The United States is one of 45 members of the Commission.

The CSW convened its 48th session in New York March 1–12, 2004. The U.S. delegation was headed by Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey, and included Dorothy Bush Koch, Elizabeth Cheney, and Ann Korkery as Public Delegates. At each session, member states consider two main themes from the 12 areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995). In

2004, member states adopted Agreed Conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality, incorporating U.S. language on the involvement of fathers. Member states also adopted Agreed Conclusions on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

Members adopted the following resolutions by consensus: "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan," "Revitalization and strengthening of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women," "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS," "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts," "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programs in the United Nations system" (cosponsored by the United States), and "Preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission." The United States voted against the resolution "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women," as it does each year, because it was a one-sided resolution that singled out Israel for criticism while ignoring the role Palestinians and Arab states played in prolonging the crisis. The resolution also addressed a number of issues, including territory and refugees, which must be resolved by negotiations between the two sides.

The United States sponsored a panel entitled "New Approaches in the Fight Against Trafficking," which featured speakers from the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Center in Romania, the Swedish Government, and the International Justice Mission, a U.S. nongovernmental organization. In addition, the United States hosted a luncheon on U.S. efforts to promote democracy and women's rights in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere in the Near East.

Commission on Human Rights

The UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR) is the principal UN organ for achieving the UN Charter objective of promoting respect for human rights. It is composed of 53 members, each elected for a three-year term. The CHR held its 60th session in Geneva, Switzerland, March 15–April 23, 2004. Ambassador Richard S. Williamson headed the U.S. delegation and Mark Leland, Tami Longaberger, Hai Van Ha, and Luis Zuñiga served as Public Delegates. The CHR adopted 87 resolutions and 25 decisions. The Economic and Social Council adopted the CHR report and more than 47 resolutions dealing with human rights issues. The UN General Assembly adopted more than 70 resolutions on human rights, as well as women's, social, and related issues that were considered by the General Assembly's Third Committee. In addition, in a variety of other UN fora in 2004, the United States continued to call attention to specific situations of human rights abuses in various countries.

The United States worked with Latin American partners to cosponsor a Honduran resolution condemning the situation of human rights in Cuba, which was adopted by the Commission. This was a major priority for the United States, and the resolution was adopted. The United States partnered with the European Union (EU) in co-introducing a resolution on human rights

problems in Turkmenistan that was also adopted. The United States worked closely with the EU to support resolutions on Belarus, Burma (Myanmar), and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The CHR also adopted several resolutions providing for advisory services to countries in Africa including Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia.

The United States, along with East Timor, Peru, and Romania, introduced a resolution on consolidation and promotion of democracy which was adopted by the Commission. The resolution stressed the need for UN member states to focus and contribute to democratic institution building, also establishing a democracy "focal point" in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The General Assembly also adopted a similar U.S.-sponsored resolution at its 59th session.

The United States continued to oppose, publicly and in diplomacy, repeated efforts by several members to adopt unbalanced resolutions about Israel. The United States also opposed a special sitting to discuss Israel's assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yasin. The sitting was called for by Pakistan, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It resulted in a resolution, which the United States also opposed, calling on Israel to "accord fullest respect to the principles of international humanitarian law and desist from all forms of violation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory." On April 22, three statements, in lieu of another special sitting regarding Israel's assassination of Abdelaziz Rantissi, were made by Israel, the Palestinian Observer, and Pakistan on behalf of the OIC. There was no resolution associated with this discussion.

Cuba put forward a resolution, critiquing the U.S. embargo of Cuba as a *de facto* human rights problem, which was adopted. The United States maintains that the embargo is a bilateral issue and the Commission on Human Rights is not an appropriate forum for its discussion. Cuba also introduced a resolution that accused the United States of depriving detainees at Guantanamo and elsewhere of their rights and called for CHR representatives to report on the situation of prisoners at the U.S. naval base. The U.S. delegation led the campaign opposing the proposed resolution by highlighting, among other things, the judicial processes pending in the United States, ongoing visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross with detainees, and the U.S. record of cooperating with CHR representatives. In the end, Cuba failed to muster sufficient support for its resolution to present it for a vote, and withdrew it.

A resolution on the situation of human rights in Sudan failed to present a strong and accurate description of the Sudanese government's deplorable human rights record, and the United States opposed adoption of its weak text, although the Commission adopted the resolution.

Also at the CHR, U.S.-supported attempts to condemn the human rights situation in Zimbabwe and China fell victim to no-action motions, a procedural tactic that blocks formal consideration of a resolution on an up-or-down vote. No-action motions also plagued the Third Committee of the

General Assembly in its fall 2004 session, where separate resolutions on the human rights situations in Belarus, Sudan, and Zimbabwe were derailed. At the same time, the United States worked closely with like-minded delegations to secure adoption of resolutions condemning human rights violations in Burma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, and Turkmenistan.

The United States achieved positive results in addressing anti-Semitism at the CHR. References condemning anti-Semitism were included in resolutions on “The Incompatibility between Democracy and Racism,” “The Elimination of all Forms of Religious Intolerance,” and “The World Conference against Racism.” References to anti-Semitism also were included in the General Assembly Third Committee resolutions on religious intolerance and racism.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal UN official responsible for advancing UN human rights activities and is responsible to the Secretary-General. Under the High Commissioner’s leadership, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) works to ensure the practical implementation of universally recognized human rights norms, including by carrying out the tasks assigned by UN human rights bodies. In February, the Secretary-General appointed, and the General Assembly approved by acclamation, Louise Arbour (Canada) as the High Commissioner for a four-year term, and she took office in August. The United States, through its mission to the United Nations in Geneva, has worked with the new High Commissioner to build a strong cooperative relationship.

OHCHR’s operations in 2004 included wide-ranging activities such as the establishment of a residential office in Guatemala; a commission of inquiry for Cote d’Ivoire; a jointly funded UN seminar on Good Governance in South Korea; and reports of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in Darfur, Iraq, and Sudan.

In 2004, the United States sponsored a resolution on consolidation and promotion of democracy at the 2004 UN Commission on Human Rights that called for the establishment of a democracy “Focal Point” within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The United States donated \$200,000 to help fund the position, which serves as a point of contact for states that are interested in improving and promoting democracy.

In April, Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights Bertrand Ramcharan stated his intention of compiling a report on the human rights situation in Iraq. The United States played a key role in assisting Mr. Ramcharan to collect information from the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) on a range of human rights issues pertaining to CPA policies for the promotion and protection of human rights of Iraqi civilians.

A key priority for the United States in 2004 was working with the High Commissioner to ensure sufficient and timely deployment of OHCHR human rights monitors to Darfur, Sudan, in order to secure facts and evidence

about the genocide taking place there. The United States coordinated regularly with the High Commissioner to request an increased OHCHR presence in the field. In 2004, the UN Secretariat was slow to assist OHCHR in recruiting and deploying monitors.

The United States contributed \$2.5 million to Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights to support a range of activities, including programs to promote human rights monitoring and field activities in the context of peacekeeping and peace-building.

UN Democracy Fund

Throughout 2004, the United States sought to increase cooperation among democratic countries in order to promote human rights, the rule of law, and freedom in countries undergoing transitions to democracy. On September 21, President Bush called for the creation of a UN Democracy Fund in his address to the UN General Assembly. He said the Fund “would help countries lay the foundations of democracy by instituting the rule of law, independent courts, a free press, political parties, and trade unions.” The President also said that to show its commitment to the Fund, the United States would make an initial contribution. He urged all other nations to contribute as well.

The U.S. vision for the fund is to provide the capacity building and training to nations transitioning to democracy or that consolidate democratic institutions. The United States believed the Fund also represented an opportunity for democracy caucus members to focus and cooperate on projects that can provide concrete assistance to countries seeking to democratize.

Since President Bush’s speech to the General Assembly, the United States worked diligently with other UN member states and with the UN Secretariat toward the creation of the Fund. During October, November, and December, the United States promoted the Fund to other countries through communications to participants in the Community of Democracies, in multiple senior-level meetings involving Washington and U.S. Mission to the UN officials in New York, with UN member state representatives, and officials of the UN Secretariat, as well as in numerous bilateral exchanges in Washington with interested nations.

In 2004, many states expressed political support for the Fund. They included Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Poland, South Korea, and Sri Lanka. India pledged \$5 million for the Fund.

Democracy Caucus

The United States believes that democratic nations must work more closely together in order to help the United Nations live up to its founding principles. Democratic nations share a common commitment to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The UN democracy caucus, a network of democratic nations working together, will facilitate the advancement of the work of the United Nations in such areas as human rights, good governance, and the rule of law. The UN democracy caucus is comprised of approximately

130 countries that are members of the Community of Democracies. The democracy caucus was not intended to supplant long-standing regional or other groupings, but rather to provide an added mechanism for like-minded democratic nations to cooperate. It serves as a supplementary network that countries use to cooperate on resolutions and alternatives.

At the 2004 Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the United States increased the democracy caucus's profile by joining other democracies to mutually support CHR resolutions dealing with democracy and good governance. Specifically, the United States and democracy caucus members East Timor, Peru, and Romania achieved adoption of a resolution on consolidation and promotion of democracy. This resolution recognized the need for UN members to contribute to democratic institution-building, and created a focal point for democracy promotion in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In the Third Committee of the General Assembly in 2004, the United States strongly supported the work of Chile, which chaired the first formal meetings of the democracy caucus at the United Nations. Participating governments agreed to support four selected UN resolutions by giving them positive consideration. These four resolutions, "Torture and other inhuman or other degrading treatment or punishment," submitted by Denmark; "Promotion and cooperation among religions," submitted by the Philippines; "Enhancing the role of regional and subregional and other organizations and arrangements in promoting and consolidating democracy," submitted by East Timor, Peru, Romania, and the United States; and "Improvement of the status of women in the UN system," submitted by Australia, were adopted with broad support.

NGO Committee

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO Committee) is the UN body that adjudicates requests by nongovernmental organizations for accreditation to participate in ECOSOC and its subsidiaries' meetings. The 19 members of the Committee in 2004 were Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Iran, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, United States, and Zimbabwe. Terms for Committee membership are four years; the U.S. term will end on December 31, 2006. The 2004 regular session met during the period May 10–28. During a brief meeting on June 23, the Committee decided against holding a resumed session, instead choosing to hold two sessions in 2005.

The Committee recommended 114 NGOs for consultative status with ECOSOC; 27 of these are U.S. based. The Committee also upgraded the classification of seven organizations and took note of 57 quadrennial reports. The Committee deferred action on 41 applications and six quadrennial reports, and decided not to recommend the following four NGOs for accreditation based on complaints from member states: Conscience Africaine (Cameroon), 31st of December Women Movement (Nigeria), Alliance Vietnam Liberté (Vietnam), and International Association Promoting Human Rights (Cuba).

Cuba accused the International Association Promoting Human Rights, a Mexico-based NGO, of working to overthrow the Government of Cuba and of having ties to groups targeting Cuba with terrorism. The United States, along with other members of the Committee, requested a delay in the consideration of this NGO's application for accreditation. The Committee rejected the U.S. request for a delay, and then voted against recommending consultative status for the NGO.

U.S. delegates were actively engaged in discussions on both regular accreditation and suspensions of NGOs. The Committee voted to suspend the consultative status of Cuban-backed NGO Tupaj Amaru for one year, based on the U.S. complaint that Tupaj Amaru members had threatened the U.S. delegation and its head, Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, at the 2003 UN Commission on Human Rights. The Committee also suspended, in a close vote, the Italian NGO Transnational Radical Party, a consistent advocate of democracy promotion and a UN democracy caucus, for three years` based on a complaint made by Vietnam.

Humanitarian Issues

World Food Program (WFP)

The World Food Program (WFP) is the UN's front-line agency in the fight against global hunger. In 2004, WFP delivered \$2.9 billion worth of food aid (5.1 million tons of food) to 113 million people in 80 countries, including 26 million people in Iraq, through one of the largest operations in WFP history. Nearly half the worldwide food aid in 2004 was supplied by WFP and 99 percent of it went to the world's least developed countries where it was needed most. James T. Morris (United States) became WFP's 10th Executive Director in April 2002. WFP's governing body, the Executive Board, has 36 members, including the United States.

WFP's Strategic Plan for 2004–2007 contains the following five strategic priorities: to save lives in crisis situations; to protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience to shocks; to support improved nutrition and health status of children, mothers, and other vulnerable people; to support access to education and reduce gender disparity in access to education and skills training; and to help governments establish and manage national food-assistance programs.

In 2004, WFP helped the United States achieve its humanitarian and development goals, carrying out programs in Sudan, Iraq, Ethiopia, southern Africa, Haiti, and North Korea, among other locations. In response to the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, WFP reached an agreement with the Libyan Government for a new supply route to the refugee camps in eastern Chad through the Saharan desert. The first shipment of U.S. food assistance made its way through the Libyan Corridor in November. In addition, by the end of 2004, WFP was feeding 1.7 million people per month in the Darfur region. In September, an inter-agency team led by WFP conducted a Food Security and

Nutrition Survey of internally displaced persons and residents in Darfur—the most comprehensive survey of its kind.

In Iraq, WFP continued to support the Ministry of Trade in ensuring regular food rations for the Iraqi people. WFP procured and secured the transport of 1.6 million tons of food, on behalf of the Iraqi Ministry of Trade, for a three-month buffer stock. This was the largest single amount ever procured by WFP.

WFP had school feeding programs in 19 out of the 25 countries most affected by HIV/AIDS. WFP also provided take-home rations for vulnerable children and orphans. In partnership with the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the U.S. Agency for International Development, WFP carried out rapid assessments and developed action plans for the growing orphan crisis in 17 sub-Saharan countries. Food and education were at the top of the list for responding to the crisis.

In 2004, WFP fed more than 16.6 million schoolchildren in 72 countries. Working with national governments, local authorities, and other aid groups, WFP used food to attract children to schools in areas where enrollment ratios are lowest and where school feeding will have the greatest impact. WFP served as the implementing partner for five projects funded through the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. These projects (in Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique) reached an estimated beneficiary population of over 1.3 million children.

Throughout 2004, WFP focused on ways to become more effective, efficient, and responsive. It strengthened its ability to assess vulnerability and emergency needs and improved its internal business process review. It also expanded its donor base by attracting new donors, including from the private sector. In 2004, 16 of the top 20 donors increased their contributions, with France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Malawi, the Netherlands, and Spain increasing their contributions by more than 15 percent. In addition, eight governments contributed to WFP for the first time in 2004. Contributions from private donors in 2004 totaled \$61.6 million in cash and in-kind gifts.

WFP increased its work with other UN organizations. In 2004, the Food and Agriculture Organization and WFP collaborated on 17 joint crop and food-supply assessment missions in Africa, Asia, and Central America. WFP collaborated with the International Fund for Agricultural Development on seven projects in Asia and Africa. WFP also developed close working relations with UNICEF (on increasing primary school enrollment and retention of young girls, reducing malnutrition, and reducing the risk and burden of HIV/AIDS); the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (assisting 2.8 million

refugees in 29 countries); and the World Health Organization (on nutrition strategies that improve education, health, and nutritional outcomes).

WFP's operational expenditures for 2004 were allocated among geographic regions as follows: sub-Saharan Africa—50 percent; North Africa and the Middle East—31 percent; Asia—15 percent; Latin America and the Caribbean—two percent; Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region—one percent.

The 2004–2005 budget of \$4.8 billion endeavors to raise funds for 100 percent of all approved programs and provide the technical support and emergency preparedness capacity so that WFP can carry out its work effectively. The budget, which is based on anticipated needs rather than on past commitments or projected donor funding, as previous budgets had been, is \$1.6 billion higher than the original budget estimate for 2002–2003. Because contributions to WFP are entirely voluntary, this increase did not affect the United States.

WFP operates exclusively from voluntary contributions of commodities and cash donated by governments and other donors. In 2004, 88 percent of its resources went to meet emergency and protracted relief humanitarian needs; 12 percent went to development programs. In 2004, WFP received \$2.2 billion in confirmed contributions. The United States remained WFP's largest donor, contributing over \$1.1 billion (47 percent). At the end of 2004, WFP had 8,829 contract employees and 1,153 international professional staff, 111 of whom were U.S. citizens.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Established by the General Assembly in 1950, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to coordinate international efforts to protect and provide durable solutions for the world's refugees. During 2004, the number of refugees identified by UNHCR fell from 9.7 million to 9.2 million, the lowest total in almost a quarter of a century. However, the total number of "persons of concern" to UNHCR, which includes refugee returnees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and a portion of the world's internally displaced, increased from 17 million to 19.2 million.

In 2004, the United States and UNHCR again negotiated a "Framework for Cooperation." Priorities included better protection of refugees, with special focus on women and children; establishment of comprehensive management and oversight responsibilities to include strong accountability; development of standardized registration; improved preparedness and emergency response; development of improved information technology and management systems; emphasis on resettlement as a key protection tool and durable solution; assessment of real refugee needs; consistent use of internationally-accepted standards as the baseline for refugee care; and improved standards of care in Africa.

UNHCR had a strong presence in Africa in 2004. Two hundred thousand Sudanese refugees fled to Eastern Chad, increasing the demand for UNHCR services. UNHCR assisted 500,000 Sudanese refugees in other countries who fled Sudan in previous years. In Darfur, UNHCR provided protection, shelter, and humanitarian assistance to 660,000 of the 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, nearly 130,000 refugees returned home to Burundi and Angola. The voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees was delayed due to peace negotiations; as a result, some 400,000 Somali refugees remained in UNHCR camps at the end of 2004. The return of refugees and IDPs to and within Liberia was another key activity for UNHCR in 2004.

Afghan refugees and returnees remained a UNHCR priority in 2004. UNHCR and its partners (including UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations) helped over 760,000 Afghan refugees return home, raising the total number of returnees to 3.5 million since the end of 2001. UNHCR assisted over 750,000 of the more than 2 million Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

The UNHCR Executive Committee (EXCOM), of which the United States is a member, approves the budget and provides policy guidance. In October 2004, the EXCOM met and discussed protection and program policy, management and oversight, finance, and human resource issues. The U.S. delegation worked to advance U.S. interests including strengthening efforts by the international community to address protection and the pursuit of durable solutions for refugees; maximizing UNHCR's operational performance; increasing coordination among UNHCR, its donors, refugee hosting countries, and UNHCR's implementing and operational partners; and improving emergency preparedness and response capacity. The United States also focused on security issues, the protection of women and children, and progress made on the High Commissioner's Five Commitments to Refugee Women.

In 2003, the EXCOM approved a 2004 annual budget of nearly \$955 million. In addition, UNHCR issued supplemental appeals for \$278 million to aid refugees and IDPs in Sudan, returnees to Liberia and Burundi, and for activities in Iraq. The UN regular budget accounted for about 2.5 percent of the overall UNHCR budget; the remainder came from donors. The United States, through the Department of State, donated \$302 million, 25 percent of UNHCR's annual budgetary needs. In 2004, UNHCR's income was over \$1 billion, resulting in a funding shortfall of \$231 million; as a result, some operations fell below accepted standards of care.

UNHCR operates in 121 countries with a staff of over 6,000. Of the more than 6,000 UNHCR employees, 1,429 are international staff, of which 117 are Americans. UNHCR hopes to increase U.S. representation within the agency through efforts such as the recruiting visit to the United States planned for the fall of 2005. Officers and refugee coordinators from the State Department worked in concert with UNHCR to ensure that the UNHCR's mandate was executed effectively and comprehensively.

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

Since 1950, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has provided education, health, and social services to Palestinian refugees and their descendants that live in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. These refugees now number over 4 million. UNRWA, which was headed in 2004 by Commissioner-General Peter Hansen (Denmark), has 24,500 employees, most of whom are teachers. In 2004, UNRWA spent about 54 percent of its regular budget on education, including schools and teachers. Approximately 18 percent of its regular budget was devoted to health services, and another 10 percent on relief and social services. The United States believes that UNRWA has done a good job under very difficult circumstances in providing for the basic humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees.

There were continued allegations regarding UNRWA employees' membership in terrorist organizations and UNRWA textbooks propagating hatred. UNRWA maintains a corps of independent inspectors known as Operation Support Officers, established at U.S. urging in 2002, to prevent the misuse of UNRWA facilities and report on violations of UNRWA's privileges and immunities. UNRWA has taken the lead in organizing tolerance education in its schools, and the United States made substantial contributions to develop teaching materials emphasizing human rights and tolerance for middle school students.

In 2004, the United States contributed \$127 million to UNRWA, over 25 percent of UNRWA's total 2004 donor funding of \$500 million. This contribution included \$87 million to UNRWA's General Fund; and \$40 million for food, shelter repair, health needs, and short-term employment in response to UNRWA's emergency appeal for the West Bank and Gaza. Of the 129 professional UNRWA employees, 15 were U.S. citizens.

UN Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Activities

In 2004, the United States and the United Nations cooperated extensively on disaster and humanitarian relief activities. The United States provided leadership as a donor; as a member of UN agency governing bodies and support groups, including the Donor Support Group of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; and as an advocate for improved response by the global community to humanitarian emergencies. The United States also provided substantial support to UN humanitarian operations throughout the world, including ongoing relief efforts for complex emergencies in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and other countries in conflict.

During 2004, the United States attended preparatory meetings for the January 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction to ensure that the first such event in 10 years would produce tangible outcomes that could significantly reduce the number or intensity of disasters. In a related

development, the United States and the United Nations collaborated closely on developing ideas on how to enhance the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), an office of the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

The United States actively engaged the United Nations and its member states on a wide range of humanitarian and disaster related resolutions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The United States supported resolutions on improving the ISDR; strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; improving the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of UN personnel; and several country-specific resolutions.

On December 26, an earthquake off the coast of Indonesia caused a tsunami that impacted countries in south and southeast Asia and as far as South Africa, killing over 240,000 people. The United States worked closely with the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and other UN agencies in the last days of the year to start what became one of the largest humanitarian relief operations in history. Several government agencies, especially Departments of State and Defense, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, were heavily involved in the initial response, which included direct financial support to national authorities, UN operational agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. The U.S. military also provided indirect relief in the form of air support and communications. Following the tsunami crisis and at the request of the UN Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications, the Department of State also arranged for an *ad hoc* early warning system to be set up for relief workers in Indonesia and Thailand.