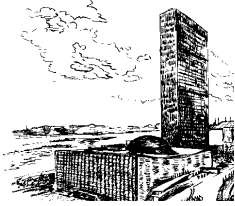


## Part 3



# Economic and Social Affairs

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## Economic and Social Affairs

The UN Charter established the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as the principal UN entities responsible for issues involving economic and social affairs. ECOSOC holds its main substantive session each July, and the General Assembly takes place in September–December of each year.

### Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC is composed of 54 member states elected to three-year terms, with seats allotted according to geographical distribution. ECOSOC considers issues related to international economic, social, cultural, educational, and health matters, and makes recommendations that the General Assembly typically takes up.

The 2000 ECOSOC session consisted of five segments. The High-Level Segment dealt with the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based economy. The Operational Activities for Development Segment focused on funding operational activities for development; simplifying and harmonizing programming, operational, and administrative procedures; and implementing the Triennial Policy Review. The Council also considered the reports of the Executive Boards of the UN Development Program/UN Population Fund, UN Children's Fund, and the World Food Program during this segment. UN global conference follow-up and implementation of the HABITAT Agenda were the topics for the Coordination Segment. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment took up the issues of economic, humanitarian, and disaster relief assistance. The General Segment included wide-ranging subjects involving the environment, social development and the advancement of women, crime, narcotics, refugees, and human rights.

Subsidiary bodies reporting to ECOSOC include regional economic commissions and functional commissions. In 2000, the United States was a member of key functional commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Sustainable Development, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission on Narcotic

Drugs, Commission for Social Development, Commission on Population and Development, Commission on the Status of Women, and the Statistical Commission. The United States belonged to three of the five regional economic commissions—the Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean—and had observer status in the Economic Commission for Africa.

### **General Assembly**

The General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic) covers economic and environmental issues. The United States did not sponsor any Second Committee resolutions during the 55th General Assembly. The United States joined consensus on most of the Second Committee resolutions, including those on international trade and development, commodities, industrial development and cooperation, business and development, poverty, financing for development, globalization and interdependence, biological diversity, global partnerships, desertification, new and renewable sources of energy, and climate protection. The United States also joined consensus with explanations of position on resolutions concerning sustainable development in Africa, external debt crisis, and financing of development. The United States voted against resolutions on eliminating economic coercive measures and sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The General Assembly's Third Committee (Social) handles social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, including human rights issues. In 2000, several notable country-specific human rights resolutions were introduced. The United States sponsored a resolution on Southeast Europe and the election results in Serbia, and cosponsored resolutions on Burma, Cambodia, Iraq, Haiti, and Iran. The United States cosponsored a number of thematic human rights resolutions on torture, religious intolerance, regional arrangements, human rights defenders, the UN decade for human rights education, and the first resolution ever adopted by the General Assembly on democracy (157 (U.S.) to 0, with 16 abstentions). The United States was also involved with Third Committee resolutions on social development, advancement of women, international drug control, children's rights, indigenous people, and racism and racial discrimination.

### **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

The UN General Assembly convened UNCTAD in 1964 at the request of developing nations concerned about deteriorating terms of trade. UNCTAD subsequently evolved into a permanent Secretariat resembling a UN specialized agency. It currently has 190 members and is based in Geneva. Since 1995, UNCTAD has been led by Secretary General Rubens Ricupero, former Finance Minister of Brazil.

UNCTAD's principal functions include acting as a forum for intergovernmental discussions on issues of trade and development; carrying out research, data collection and analysis to provide substantive inputs to such discussions; and providing technical assistance on trade-related issues to developing countries, in coordination with other relevant organizations. UNCTAD's overall objective is to facilitate the integration of developing countries in the world economy, with a particular focus on the least developed countries.

The tenth quadrennial session of UNCTAD took place in Bangkok in February 2000, where members agreed on a Plan of Action to guide UNCTAD's activities through 2004. The main portions of the Plan concerned development strategies in an interdependent world, and UNCTAD's engagement in globalization, investment, international trade, infrastructure for development, least developed and developing countries, technical cooperation, intergovernmental machinery, and implementation of the Plan.

UNCTAD also convenes annual sessions of its Trade and Development Board in Geneva. The 2000 session reviewed the limited progress in implementation of the UN's New Agenda for Development in Africa during the 1990s.

As the focal point for least developed countries within the UN system, UNCTAD was given responsibility for coordinating preparations for the Third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC III), to be held in May 2001 in Brussels. UNCTAD convened the first preparatory committee meeting for LDC III in July. By year's end, it had produced a draft Program of Action to be negotiated by member states as the Conference's principal outcome document. UNCTAD also oversaw the drafting of national development plans by the least developed countries, building on existing World Bank and UN Development Program initiatives, to guide LDC development strategies after the Conference.

## **Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**

The CSD is a 53-member functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council that was established in 1993 to monitor the progress of sustainable development worldwide, according to recommendations developed during the 1992 Earth Summit. Sustainable development means that economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity proceed together, and not one at the expense of another.

The Commission's members are elected for 3-year terms; the United States is currently a member. The CSD meets annually at the United Nations in New York City to review different aspects of sustainable development; make policy recommendations; and promote discussion among governments and members of civil society with a stake in sustainable

development, including environmental advocacy groups, industry, farmers, and indigenous people.

The CSD held its eighth session April 24–May 5 to address five themes: agriculture, land management, finance, trade, and preparations for the review of the 1992 Earth Summit. In preparation for its policy discussions, the CSD engaged representatives of civil society in a two–day dialogue. Participants represented a broad spectrum of civil society, including business, labor, environmental advocates, and indigenous people.

The Commission’s most significant action was on the 10–year review of the 1992 Earth Summit. The CSD agreed that the review should focus on progress in sustainable development since 1992 and on relevant new issues that have arisen in the interim. The CSD also recommended holding this event as a special global summit outside New York (preferably in a developing country) over U.S. objections. U.S. policy is that such meetings should be held during the normal course of regularly–scheduled deliberations by existing UN bodies.

The Commission also emphasized the importance of food security, sustainable natural–resource management, agriculture in overall development, and the central role of women and other stakeholders.

## **Commission for Social Development (CSocD)**

The 38th session of the CSocD met in New York February 8–17. CSocD considered two topics under its multi–year program of work, namely the priority theme “Contribution of the Commission to the Overall Review and Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,” and review of relevant UN plans and programs of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

The United States joined consensus on Commission Resolution 38/1 on the Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development which contained a set of agreed conclusions. At its second substantive session April 3–14, 2000, the Commission decided to transmit the Conclusions to the Economic and Social Council for the Council’s attention at its substantive session in 2000, as well as to the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives.

The review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit showed that many new national policies and programs had been initiated. However, there were indications that there had been little progress in some key areas, and regress had been evident in others. For example, while members widely accepted the idea of gender mainstreaming, some countries had not implemented this concept. One major development since the Summit was that financial inequality within and among states continued to grow. Also, while globalization provided many benefi-

cial opportunities, it had also presented serious challenges, including widespread financial crises and insecurity, poverty, and increased financial inequality. The CSocD recognized the need for collective action to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for all members of society, including those with special needs.

With regard to the Commission's review of plans and programs of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the United States joined consensus on a resolution on the "The Follow-Up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Aging," which, *inter alia*, decided to convene a Second World Assembly on Aging in 2002 on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Vienna World Assembly on Aging, as well as to adopt a revised plan of action and a long-term strategy on aging. The Commission also accepted the offer of the Government of Spain to host the Second World Assembly on Aging, and decided that the Assembly would be held in Spain in April 2002. The Commission further decided that it would serve as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Aging. The United States made the following explanation of vote at the time of adoption of the resolution: "The United States joins consensus on this resolution with the understanding that the proposed Second World Assembly on Aging will have no extrabudgetary implications for the UN regular budget."

There was a presentation by and dialogue with the Commission's Special Rapporteur on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The United States joined consensus on the resolution on the "Further Promotion of Equalization of Opportunities by, for, and with Persons with Disabilities." The resolution welcomed the many initiatives and actions of governments, relevant UN bodies and organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as nongovernmental organizations to further implement the goal of full participation and equality for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Standard Rules. The Commission also decided to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period through the year 2002. The United States made the following explanation of vote at the time of adoption of this resolution: "The United States regrets not being able to cosponsor this resolution. We are joining consensus, but would like to note that the United States cannot support the language in preambular paragraph 3, which amounts to a reaffirmation by all of the states supporting this resolution of obligations that they have not all, in fact, undertaken. We would like to emphasize, however, our Government's commitment to the advancement and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities."

Finally, the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda for its 39th session in 2001. The priority theme will be: "Enhancing Social Protection and Reducing Vul-

nerability in a Globalizing World.” The sub–theme will be the role of voluntarism in the promotion of social development.

## **Regional Economic Commissions**

The United Nations has five regional economic commissions: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), 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 (ESCWA). They 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, but many of their activities are financed by extrabudgetary grants from bilateral and multilateral donors.

The United States is a member of three of the regional commissions: ECE, ECLAC, and ESCAP.

### **Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

The ECE, established in 1947, consists of 55 member nations, including the United States, the former central Asian and Caucasian Republics of the Soviet Union, Canada, Switzerland, and Israel. Executive Secretary Danuta Hubner, who heads the organization, was appointed by the UN Secretary General in May 2000. The Geneva–based organization’s broad aim is to encourage cooperation and integration among its member states.

One of the ECE functions is serving as a forum for member states to discuss issues of common concern in the region. At the 2000 annual meeting, the Commission focused its attention on the problems of southeast Europe, particularly on problems of unresolved national sovereignty, the lack of adequate levels of employment, and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Providing technical assistance in member states is also an important ECE function. The Commission furnished useful technical support for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and Stability Pact in the development of southeast Europe. The United States was an active supporter and participant in these ECE activities.

The ECE also holds technical Working Parties on a wide range of technical fields, such as energy, environment, vehicle and road standards, timber, perishable produce, etc. Many U.S. Government agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and Departments of Commerce, Energy, Transportation, and Agriculture participate in these technical meetings. In 2000, for example, the United States participated in the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies, and in several expert meetings on vehicle construction and safety and harmonization of vehicle regulations. Certain standards and regulations pro-

duced by the Working Parties enjoy global status and applicability. U.S. participation in ECE activities serves to advance and safeguard U.S. interests in these areas.

### **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

ECLAC was established in 1948 and is based in Santiago, Chile. It consists of 41 member nations, including the United States. Executive Secretary Jose Antonio Ocampo has headed the organization since January 1998.

ECLAC has increased coordination and cooperation among both its member states and the various international entities involved in advancing the hemisphere's economic and social development. It previously advocated closed markets and state-run economies, but now supports trade liberalization and privatization. Its main products are sector studies and statistical compilations. Issues discussed include projects on food and agriculture; industrial, scientific, and technological development; international trade; development financing; sustainable development; population; women and development; statistics and economic projections; transport; transnational corporations; and regional cooperation. In recent years, ECLAC has emphasized social equity. Its major study "Equity, Development, and Citizenship" was extensively discussed at the April 2000 Commission meeting.

ECLAC has usefully contributed to the Summit of the Americas process as a member of the "Tripartite Committee," along with the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank. ECLAC contributes to the Summit process in five areas. Four are transportation, small enterprises, education, and women's issues. The fifth area, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), provides the FTAA working groups with analytical support, technical assistance, and studies as requested.

Discussions to improve ECLAC take place in its Ad Hoc Working Group on Priorities, set up in 1996 as part of an effort to reform the organization. The Working Group has focused on performance indicators and other modernization issues, including increased Internet usage. The United States has encouraged the Working Group to be more active in identifying and recommending organizational improvements.

ECLAC meetings occur biennially in the spring. The April 2000 session took place in Mexico City. During the Working Level Segment, detailed presentations on the 12 ECLAC subprograms and a meeting of ECLAC's Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development occurred simultaneously. During the Ministerial Level Segment, Mexican President Zedillo gave an address; former heads of state from Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico participated in a panel discussion; and panels were held on economic issues and social policies to alleviate poverty. The

United States joined consensus on all the ECLAC resolutions, including ones on women, population and development, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and ECLAC's 2002–2003 work program. Brazil has offered to host the 2002 meeting.

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

ESCAP was established in 1947 and is based in Bangkok, Thailand. It consists of 51 member nations; the United States, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom are the non-regional members. ESCAP priorities include promoting regional economic cooperation, infrastructure development, and sustainable development; sharing expertise and best practices on economic and social development; mitigating natural disasters; and coordinating and standardizing statistics gathering.

In July 2000, UN Secretary General Annan appointed Kim Hak-Su (Republic of Korea) as ESCAP Executive Secretary. Dr. Kim has focused ESCAP on poverty alleviation, a dominant concern for some countries in the region. With strong support from the United States and others, he has initiated significant institutional reforms. These include rationalizing the organizational structure and staffing pattern, paring down ESCAP's over-extended publications program, and identifying how ESCAP can better meet member state needs.

The June 2000 Commission meeting focused on "development through globalization and partnership in the 21st century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis." In its national statement, the United States argued that the World Trade Organization (WTO) has a crucial role in furthering this objective: all countries can benefit from globalization by integrating into the world economy and attaining WTO membership. Good governance, democratization, and sound social and macroeconomic policies help a country protect itself from economic shocks and sustain the benefits of international assistance and debt relief.

On ESCAP institutional reform, the United States urged the ESCAP Secretariat to work closely with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and its Informal Working Group to effect further improvements. These bodies can play a crucial role in evaluating progress toward specific reform goals and in determining whether the costs justify the outcomes.

### **Human Rights**

The United States continued its strong participation in UN human rights fora throughout 2000. The UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the UN General Assembly provided opportunities for the United States to highlight its concern about both new and continued viola-



tions of human rights around the world. The CHR adopted 87 resolutions and 13 decisions; the General Assembly adopted more than 45 human rights resolutions. In addition, preparations for the 2001 World Conference Against Racism were in full swing with a U.S. Government inter-agency task force coordinating input for its participation in preparatory meetings in Geneva and Santiago.

Resolutions addressing specific countries emphasized to their governments the obligation to live up to international human rights standards, especially to the provisions of international human rights treaties to which they are a party. Country resolutions reaffirmed the international community's responsibility to examine human rights violations wherever they occur and the commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. Thematic resolutions allowed the United States to demonstrate strong support for civil and political rights; the elimination of discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, or gender; and support for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including special rapporteurs and technical assistance.

In January 2000, the Working Groups on the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child reached consensus on Optional Protocols on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, thereby moving toward new, internationally recognized protections for children. Language was added to allow the United States to join these protocols without ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child. On April 26, the CHR adopted by consensus the protocols (2000/59). The protocols were adopted by the General Assembly (Resolution 54/263) by consensus on May 25 and were signed by President Clinton on July 5.

The CHR, which held its annual session in Geneva March 20–April 28, is the principal organ in the United Nations for achieving the Charter objective of promoting respect for human rights. It is composed of 53 members, including the United States, elected for three-year terms. Ambassador Nancy H. Rubin led the U.S. delegation to the 56th session of the Commission as the U.S. Representative.

The Commission adopted resolutions condemning human rights violations in Cuba, Chechnya, Iran, Iraq, Rwanda, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, and Burma that were cosponsored by the United States and other like-minded delegations. The United States was instrumental in achieving compromise language in a resolution on defamation of religions (CHR 2000/84), adopted by consensus. The United States also drafted and introduced a resolution on the former Yugoslavia, which was adopted by a vote of 44 (U.S.) to 1, with 8 abstentions (CHR 2000/26).

The United States introduced, but failed to achieve Commission support for, a resolution on the human rights situation in China. The resolu-

tion was not brought to a vote of the Commission as a result of a no-action procedural motion (an argument by a country that the issues proposed for discussion do not fall within the scope of what the body should be considering) raised by China, which carried by a vote of 22 to 17 (U.S.), with 14 abstentions.

Pursuant to treaty obligations, the United States presented its initial report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment to the UN Committee Against Torture, the treaty monitoring body for the Convention, during their May 10–15 meeting.

The 2000 (annual) substantive session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was in Geneva, July 5–August 1, 2000. ECOSOC adopted the CHR report and four draft decisions that the CHR recommended for ECOSOC adoption. The efforts of the United States and a group of like-minded countries forced Cuba to withdraw a draft decision which would have prevented the Commission on Human Rights from any future consideration of Cuba. The U.S. Representative to ECOSOC delivered a statement focusing on the procedural and institutional threat posed by the Cuban initiative to ECOSOC and its expert bodies.

The UN Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held its annual session in Geneva, August 2–27. American independent expert David Weissbrodt participated in his fifth year on the Subcommission. In confidential proceedings, the Subcommission considered cases filed by individuals and nongovernmental organizations against countries alleged to display consistent patterns of gross violations of human rights. The Subcommission adopted 30 resolutions, including resolutions on human rights situations in the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), human rights defenders, and women's issues.

At the request of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), the CHR held a special session October 17–19 in Geneva to consider the renewed outbreak of violence in the Middle East. The United States and the European Union fought a one-sided resolution sponsored by the OIC setting up a Commission of Inquiry into the violence. While the resolution was adopted, the narrow vote margin (21 to 19 (U.S.), with 11 abstentions) highlighted the ambivalence of the CHR.

During the 55th General Assembly, the United States played an active role in obtaining adoption of updated resolutions addressing the human rights situation of specific countries and fending off last minute negative amendments. A highlight of the General Assembly was a U.S.-sponsored resolution on human rights in southeast Europe reflecting the dramatic election results in Serbia (Resolution 55/113 adopted by consensus for the first time). The United States cosponsored resolutions on Burma, Cambodia, Haiti, Iran, and Iraq.

The United States also cosponsored a number of thematic human rights resolutions, including the first ever adopted by the General Assembly on democracy (Resolution 55/96), adopted by a vote of 157 to 0, with 16 abstentions. Additional resolutions with U.S. cosponsorship included those on torture, religious intolerance, regional arrangements, human rights defenders, and the UN Decade for Human Rights Education.

## **Status of Women**

### **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

The CSW met in New York, February 28–March 17, 2000. It convened its 44th session February 28–March 2. From March 3–17, the CSW convened as a preparatory committee meeting for Beijing +5, the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to the five-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan, the U.S. Representative to the CSW, led the U.S. delegation.

The main agenda items for the CSW's 44th session were: follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women; emerging issues, trends, and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men; and the working group on communications.

The Commission took action on four resolutions and two decisions. All but one was adopted by consensus.

The United States introduced a resolution entitled "Situation of Women and Girls in Afghanistan," which gathered 39 cosponsors and was adopted by consensus. The resolution, *inter alia*, condemned the continuing grave violations of the human rights of women and girls; urged the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect, promote, and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to respect international humanitarian law; encouraged the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and nongovernmental organizations, and donors to ensure a gender-sensitive approach to all UN-assisted programs; appealed to all states and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates a gender perspective and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men; and urged states to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of their policies and actions related to Afghanistan.

The United States cosponsored one resolution: the Zambian resolution on "Women, the Girl-Child, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome," which, *inter alia*, recognized that gender inequalities can render women and girls unable to protect their sexual and reproductive health, thus increasing their risk and vulnerability to HIV infection; reaffirmed the rights of woman and girls infected by

HIV/AIDS to have access to health, education and social services; and to be protected from all forms of discrimination.

The United States called for a vote on the Group of 77 (developing countries) resolution entitled “Palestinian Women,” because the United States believed it prejudices final status issues which the parties agreed to negotiate directly. It was adopted by a vote of 35 to 1 (U.S.).

By Resolution 1983/27, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) reaffirmed the CSW’s mandate to consider confidential and nonconfidential communication on the status of women and to make recommendations to ECOSOC as to what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications. It authorized the CSW to establish a five-member working group to consider the communications with a view to bringing to the Commission’s attention those communications which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women. The working group presented its report at a closed meeting of the CSW on March 2. It expressed deep concern in relation to the continuing grave violation of women’s human rights, and the persistent and pervasive discrimination against women.

### **Beijing +5**

The Special Session of the UN General Assembly Devoted to the Five-Year Review of Efforts to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, known as Beijing +5, was held June 5–9, 2000 in New York. The U.S. delegation was chaired by Secretary of State Albright, and co-chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Services Shalala and U.S. Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Holbrooke. The delegation included Congressional and nongovernmental organizations advisers.

Beijing +5 produced three documents: a political declaration, a review and appraisal that highlighted achievements in and obstacles to advancing the status of women, and a negotiated “outcome” document. Strong commitments were made, *inter alia*, in the areas of eliminating violence against women (addressing the issue of honor crimes and trafficking in women and girls), women’s role in conflict resolution and peace-building, the role of men in promoting gender equality, the role of civil society in advancing the status of women, gender mainstreaming, and women and HIV/AIDS.

### **Economic and Social Council**

During its general segment, ECOSOC adopted the report of the Commission on the Status of Women and took action on the CSW draft resolutions and decisions that had been referred to it for adoption. All were adopted by consensus except for the resolution on Palestinian women, which was adopted by a vote of 42 to 1 (U.S.), with 2 abstentions.

ECOSOC also adopted by consensus a resolution on the “Revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.”

### **General Assembly Consideration**

The General Assembly adopted by consensus seven resolutions under the agenda items “Advancement of Women” and “Implementation of the Outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women.” The United States cosponsored one resolution, “Follow-Up to Fourth World Conference on Women and Full Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly” (55/71), which, *inter alia*, called for governments, international organizations, civil society, and all other relevant actors to take action to implement the commitments of the Beijing and Beijing +5 conferences. Most uncharacteristically for the Third Committee, there was a vote on “Elimination of Crimes against Women Committed in the Name of Honor” (55/66), 146 (U.S.) to 1, with 26 abstentions. This was a highly controversial resolution, the first of its kind, which was vehemently opposed by many Muslim countries. The United States fought hard for its adoption, even though it was not as strong in the areas of enforcement of laws against and reporting of such crimes as the United States would have liked.

### **Crime Prevention and Control**

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the principal intergovernmental policy-making body of the United Nations in this field. The Commission held its 9th session in Vienna, April 18–20, 2000.

The focus of the Commission centered around the ongoing negotiations of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Convention) and three optional Protocols and the 10th Crime Congress which immediately preceded the Commission meeting.

The Convention, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air (Migrant Smuggling Protocol) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Trafficking Protocol) were completed in October after little more than two years of formal negotiations. After their adoption by the UN General Assembly in November, the three instruments were opened for signature at a conference in Palermo, Italy, in December. A record number of countries, 125, including the United States, signed the Convention at Palermo. Eighty countries, including the United States, signed the Trafficking Protocol, and 79, including the United States, signed the Migrant Smuggling Protocol. Negotiations on a fourth instrument, the Protocol against the Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Illicit Firearms,

Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition will continue in Vienna in February 2001.

The Convention is the first binding international instrument to address organized crime. The purpose of the Convention is to enable governments to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively through a common tool-kit of criminal law techniques and through international cooperation. It requires states parties to have laws criminalizing some of the most prevalent types of criminal activities associated with organized crime groups: obstruction of justice, money laundering, corruption of public officials, and conspiracy. The Convention also provides a framework for cooperation among states in apprehending criminals involved in serious crimes committed by an organized criminal group when a transnational element is present.

The Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols focus on these particularly dangerous types of organized crime for which international efforts are essential and which require that countries have laws criminalizing this conduct.

An important element of the Convention and Protocols is technical assistance to developing countries. Funds contributed by donor countries through a special UN account will be used to provide expertise to help developing countries implement the agreements by adopting laws and regulations and establishing enforcement capabilities.

The Convention, and likewise each Protocol, will become effective when at least 40 countries become parties to it. In order to be a party to a Protocol, a state must be a party to the Convention.

The remainder of the Commission meeting addressed several other resolutions. One recognized the need for an international instrument addressing corruption, and set up a procedure and timeline for determining the terms of reference of such an instrument and beginning negotiations. Another resolution acknowledged the growing problem of computer-related crime and agreed to keep the issue on the Commission's agenda. One resolution was specific to the UN African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, commending its work and seeking support for strengthening its resources.

The 10th Crime Congress, immediately preceding the Crime Commission, met April 10-17. Congresses occur every five years and provide an opportunity for nongovernmental organizations and academia to participate with government representatives in discussions of UN criminal justice issues. A number of Justice and Foreign ministers also attended.

The Congress included workshops on International Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime: New Challenges in the 21st Century; Crime Related to Computer Networks; Community Involvement in Crime Prevention; and Women in the Criminal Justice System. The Congress approved a document called The Vienna Declaration on Crime and Jus-

tice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century (Vienna Declaration) as a statement of concerns and convictions with respect to a number of criminal justice issues. These included organized crime, trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, trafficking in firearms, money laundering, terrorism, crime prevention, victims' issues and offenders' issues. The Declaration had been requested by a General Assembly resolution in 1999 (54/125). The Crime Commission was then charged with developing recommendations for implementing the Vienna Declaration. Those recommendations will be considered at the 10th Crime Commission May 8–17, 2001 in Vienna.

In fiscal year 2000, the United States contributed \$750,000 to the UN Center for International Crime Prevention. Those monies went to support the organized crime convention negotiations, a project addressing trafficking in women and children in the Philippines that was originally funded in 1999, a meeting of experts to explore the necessity of an instrument addressing the use of explosives by transnational organized criminal groups, and a project on trafficking in persons in Poland and the Czech Republic.

## **Drug Abuse Control**

The UN International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the International Narcotics Control Board, based in Vienna, are the primary UN drug control organizations. Both are key organizations supporting U.S. Government drug control objectives. The UN drug control conventions (the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 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.

In 2000, work continued on follow-up to the “20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly to Counter Together the World Drug Problem” (UNGASS), which was held June 8–10, 1998. The UNGASS had highlighted the need for shared responsibility in combating the global drug problem and the need for multilateral cooperation. The international community renewed its commitment against drugs with the adoption of the forward-looking political declaration, and in the concrete actions to implement the UN drug control conventions. Work continued in 2000 on achieving the agreed UNGASS goals, including eradication of drug crops, demand reduction, money laundering, judicial cooperation, and control of precursors and amphetamine-type stimulants.

The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) met in March 2000, in Vienna. The United States achieved its major objectives for the CND ses-

sion. U.S. resolutions on control of potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride (chemical precursors used in the illicit production of cocaine and heroin) were adopted virtually unchanged. A U.S. resolution on misuse of the Internet was similarly approved with few changes. The U.S. proposal to place norephedrine in Table 1 of the 1988 UN Drug Convention was unanimously approved. The U.S. delegation worked with other delegations to defeat a German-backed proposal to gain CND endorsement of government-provided drug injection rooms. Finally, the UNDCP withdrew its proposal, opposed by the United States, to increase overhead costs from 5 to up to 13 percent.

The United States also proposed that the CND meetings be shortened in even years. This proposal received strong support from the Western Europe and Other States Group and will be considered at the next CND. The United States encountered the most difficulty with its maritime resolution, jointly introduced by the United States and the Netherlands, which was significantly changed and weakened by countries concerned with maritime law enforcement, sovereignty, and the Law of the Sea.

At the reconvened session of the CND on December 1, 2000, the CND concentrated on UNDCP management issues and the format for the full CND meeting scheduled for March 20–29, 2001. The members expressed concern about the UNDCP launching projects using general purpose (unearmarked) funds without sufficient assurance from donors that adequate special purpose (earmarked) funds would be forthcoming to sustain the projects. The UNDCP Secretariat assured the members that this practice would stop and that donors will be consulted before launching projects in the future. The reconvened CND also decided to have a thematic debate at the opening of the March 2001 CND to focus the discussion. The theme for the meeting will be “building partnerships to address the world drug problem.”

Pino Arlacchi (Italy) continued as Executive Director of the UNDCP. Arlacchi had established an Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention in order to address the inter-related issues of drug control, crime prevention, and terrorism. The United States supported further reforms in management and administration, including decentralization of responsibility and resources to field offices, streamlining program activities, the evaluation process, and financial operations.

A resignation letter written by Arlacchi’s principal deputy was leaked in December 2000. The letter caused an uproar in the European press and provoked criticisms of Arlacchi’s management performance among the major donors.

International cooperation was enhanced on issues such as chemical control, money laundering, and maritime cooperation. UNDCP helped ensure that governments complied with the UN drug control conventions by providing assistance to countries in developing their national drug con-



trol plans and in taking appropriate legal measures. UNDCP continued its partnerships in 2000 with other UN agencies in promoting drug control.

For the biennium 2000–2001, UNDCP's total budget (programs, support, and agencies) is \$187.6 million. The program (or project) budget is \$148.3 million. The number of projects to be undertaken is 150 grouped into 8 national, 13 regional, and 4 global programs.

U.S. support to UNDCP had significant impact on the operations and expansion of UN counternarcotics programs and policy. The United States was particularly encouraged by UNDCP's emphasis in supporting elimination of illicit cultivation of opium and coca.

The U.S. contribution in fiscal year 2000 was \$20 million. The contribution will be used to support major UNDCP alternative development projects in Laos, Burma, and Pakistan; chemical control projects in South America and Central and Southeast Asia; and a global money laundering project. U.S. support will continue for a law enforcement enhancement project in Pakistan, a regional law enforcement training project in Southeast Asia, and a regional law enforcement communications project in Central Asia. In the Caribbean, support will be provided to a judicial reform project.

## **NGO Committee**

The United States recognizes that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have made valuable contributions to the work of the United Nations. The international community has benefited enormously from NGOs' expertise and experience in such fields as human rights, social development, humanitarian assistance, and environmental protection. Currently, NGOs may be granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) if they can demonstrate substantial interest in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The United States believes that civil society, in particular NGOs, plays an important role in the international community and the work of the United Nations.

Article 71 of the UN Charter provides that ECOSOC may make arrangements for consultation with NGOs that have interests in the issues within the Council's purview. ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 established the framework for NGO participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The United States is a member of the ECOSOC Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, a UN standing committee, which regulates NGO participation in the ECOSOC. The Committee holds annual meetings to consider NGO applications and discuss other matters relating to NGO participation. During its 2000 sessions, the Committee approved 112 applications for consultative status. Approximately 2,000 NGOs received ECOSOC consultative status as of the end of 2000.

Of particular note was consideration of the application of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. The application had been

argued about for a year and was opposed by Islamic countries and their allies on the NGO Committee. The fate of the application seemed sealed when tensions escalated in the Middle East in September. However, as a result of lobbying efforts by the U.S. Department of State, Israel, and senior officials at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York, the United States prevailed by the comfortable margin of 9 to 5, with 3 abstaining, on a vote called on January 16, 2001. The NGO Committee recommendation to grant Hadassah ECOSOC consultative status will not be formalized until ECOSOC meets later in 2001 to adopt the report of the NGO Committee. No reversal is expected.

The consultative status of another prominent U.S. NGO, Freedom House, is being challenged by China, Cuba, and, to a much lesser extent, Sudan. In June 2000, China called for the withdrawal of its consultative status; then Cuba, in conjunction with its January 2001 arrests of visiting Czech parliamentarians, joined the attack on Freedom House. Both China and Cuba have posed additional questions to Freedom House and the matter will be considered at the May 2001 NGO Committee meeting.