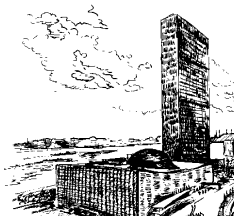


## Part 8



# Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies

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## Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Established in Rome in 1945, FAO is the UN specialized agency that provides data and expertise in agriculture (including plant and animal genetic resources), fisheries, forestry, and food-related issues. FAO is the UN system's largest autonomous agency, with 180 member nations plus the European Commission (EC), which is a member organization, 4,300 staff members, and a biennial budget of \$650 million, supplemented by more than \$300 million in extra-budgetary contributions from donor agencies and governments. FAO is the only source of comprehensive data for all agricultural commodities, forestry and fishery products, and related ecosystems. Its "State of..." publications on food and agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and food security, all produced in 2000, represented the latest analyses on major areas within FAO's competence. The forestry volume appeared in 1999.

FAO was established to promote enhanced food security (through improved nutrition and expanded production and distribution of food and agriculture products) and to improve the lives of rural populations. Its in-depth institutional knowledge of farming and natural resources and its response capability in pest control emergencies are key assets for U.S. agricultural, economic, and humanitarian interests. For example, the FAO Council decided in November 2000 to establish a Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region. In addition, FAO continues to publish the Desert Locust bulletin at least monthly.

FAO develops international standards and promotes measures to ensure food safety and quality and safe agricultural chemical use. FAO also helps protect world agriculture and consumers through training and field disease control programs aimed at eradicating plant and animal diseases and pests, and through stewardship of genetic diversity. Of particular importance are the joint FAO/World Health Organization Codex Alimentarius Commission, the revised International Plant Protections Convention, control of international plagues such as desert locusts, and

negotiations to revise the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

In the aftermath of natural disasters and other crises, FAO is the agency within the UN system that provides appropriate seeds and tools to farming communities to help reestablish agricultural production. In 2000, FAO, together with the World Bank, undertook a \$12.36 million cattle restocking and farm mechanization project to help Kosovo's poor farmers recover from the war and to ensure at least a minimum of income and food security.

FAO is the international body with sufficient expertise, membership, and mandate to help resolve global fisheries problems, such as overfishing. FAO demonstrated its ability to provide leadership through its development of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in 1995 and in 1999, through the development of "global plans of action" for conservation and management of sharks, and solutions to widespread problems related to fishing overcapacity and the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries. The United States played a strong leadership role in the development of each of those three significant plans of action. Moreover, the United States enthusiastically supported FAO efforts to eliminate the threat posed to sustainable fisheries by illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing through development of another international plan of action.

FAO is coresponsible with the UN Environment Program (UNEP) for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC). The United States played a major role in the successful conclusion of the 1998 Rotterdam Convention restricting the trade of dangerous chemicals. Thus far, 60 countries and 1 regional economic organization have signed it. The Convention will enter into force once it has been ratified by at least 50 countries. The PIC procedure will require that certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides, which have been banned or severely restricted, are not exported unless the importing country explicitly agreed to receive them. FAO and UNEP provide the interim Secretariat of the Convention.

FAO's highest policy-making body, the biennial Conference, is composed of all 180 FAO member states plus the EC. The Conference approves FAO's program and policy objectives, and adopts its program of work and budget. At the November 1999 Conference, Director General Jacques Diouf (Senegal) won reelection to a second six-year term, which expires December 2006. The Conference elects a 49-member Council (which includes the United States as a member) to serve as the interim governing body through semi-annual meetings.

FAO derives its operating funds from its regular program budget, funded through assessed contributions of its members, and from extra-budgetary activities carried out with other international organizations, financial institutions, and bilateral trust fund donors. FAO's regular program of work and budget operates on a biennial cycle and is approved by the FAO Conference. Regular program support results from assessed contributions, based on the UN assessment scale. At 25 percent, the United States was assessed \$82,387,500 for calendar year 2000. The United States achieved a major objective on funding at the 1999 Conference, which decided that upon adoption of a new General Assembly Scale of Assessments, the Director General would modify FAO's Scale of Contributions. Thus, the United States will be assessed at 22 percent, or \$72,741,000, a significant decrease, in 2001. U.S. arrears to the FAO total some \$106 million.

The United States and other major contributors continued to encourage FAO to be more active in the system-wide UN reform process and more transparent in its decision-making. The United States also continued to seek additional reforms within the organization to improve governance and to further streamline its activities. These efforts resulted in reported efficiency savings of about \$50 million in 2000 through such management measures as decentralization, stricter cost recovery, and office automation. The Strategic Framework for the period 2000–2015, the first ever for FAO, called for more efficient use of scarce resources, contained criteria for priority setting, and specified FAO's areas of comparative advantage. The United States continued to serve on the Finance Committee, where it pressed for good governance and fiscal restraint. The FAO Conference in 1999 approved a zero nominal growth budget of \$650 million for the 2000–2001 biennium. This had been a key U.S. goal.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

The IAEA is not a specialized agency, but an independent intergovernmental organization under the aegis of the United Nations. The IAEA serves a critical role in U.S. nuclear nonproliferation policy. Through its system of international safeguards, the IAEA provides critical assurances that nuclear materials under safeguards are used exclusively for peaceful purposes. There are 130 member states of the IAEA. The 35-member Board of Governors (of which the United States has a *de facto* permanent seat) is responsible for providing overall direction and guidance to the Agency's policies and program implementation. The Board meets in March, June, September, and December. The General Conference, held in September, consists of all members and carries out general oversight of the Agency's work. In 2000, the Secretariat had a total of 712 professional posts subject to geographical distribution, of which the United States held 114, which is 16.0 percent of the total. The fourth Director General of the

IAEA, Mohamed El-Baradei (Egypt), assumed office on December 1, 1997.

In the safeguards field, states continued to negotiate Additional Protocols with the IAEA, but the pace of acceptance slowed. Fifty-seven Additional Protocols were complete at the end of 2000, an increase of eleven during the year. These agreements, when brought into force and implemented, are expected to significantly enhance the Agency's ability to detect undeclared nuclear activities in these states.

IAEA safeguards implementation efforts continued at the usual high rate. In 2000, the IAEA carried out 2,463 inspections at 584 facilities in 70 states. The United States continued its substantial extrabudgetary contribution to the Agency's safeguards efforts, providing both equipment and expertise to strengthen the safeguards system. The United States also accepted safeguards inspections under its voluntary safeguards agreement at four facilities, three of which store fissile material declared excess to defense needs and one of which was downblending highly enriched uranium declared excess to defense needs.

U.S. Government agencies continued to support and participate in IAEA nuclear safety activities in 2000. Many of these activities complemented ongoing bilateral nuclear safety assistance activities and were in support of existing Group of 7 Nuclear Safety Working Group policy and objectives. (The Group of 7 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.) Through a \$1 million extrabudgetary contribution to nuclear safety activities, the United States supported ongoing programs in the Nuclear Safety and Technical Cooperation Departments. The United States contributed to work under the Extrabudgetary Program on the Safety of Nuclear Installations in South Asia, Pacific, and Far East countries; the Graphite Moderated Reactor Accident Analysis project; meetings of the Light Water Moderated Reactor Regulators Forum; and assistance for clean-up of orphan sources and uranium mill tailings in Tajikistan.

The United States continued its strong commitment to establishment of effective management and control of radiation sources through support of the Agency Action Plan for the Safety of Radioactive Sources and Security of Radioactive Materials; the United States also provided a cost-free expert to manage this area. The United States continued to support the safety service outreach program of the Nuclear Safety Department through provision of experts to participate in the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART), the International Regulatory Review Team, and International Peer Review Service of Probabilistic Safety Assessments teams in various countries. In January 2000, the United States hosted an OSART mission to the North Anna power plant. Also in 2000, the United States provided a

cost-free expert in the operational and the engineering safety units of the Nuclear Safety Department.

The year 2000 marked the second year of a new project cycle in the Technical Cooperation (TC) program. Half of all projects are now model projects, characterized by attainment of specific goals throughout their existence. The Agency continued to use thematic plans and country program frameworks to better identify and meet member states' needs. The United States played a lead role in helping the IAEA determine its TC priorities, and worked with IAEA officials to achieve U.S. goals within the TC Department. The United States was again the leading donor, contributing \$18.25 million to the TC Fund for 2000, more than 25 percent of the total.

In addition to its routine inspection activities, the IAEA also carried out important nonproliferation functions in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 2000. On the basis of a decision by the Board of Governors following a request of the UN Security Council in 1994, the IAEA continued to maintain continuous inspections at the DPRK's graphite moderated reactors and related facilities in Yongbyon and Taechon in order to monitor the freeze required by the 1994 U.S.–DPRK Agreed Framework.

The IAEA also has the UN mandate to verify the destruction of Iraq's nuclear weapons program and to establish a monitoring system in Iraq to prevent its reconstitution. The IAEA was unable to conduct inspections under relevant Security Council resolutions in Iraq in 2000 due to Iraq's refusal to cooperate with the Security Council. Consequently, the IAEA could not provide any measure of assurance that Iraq was complying with its Security Council obligations. Nonetheless, the IAEA Iraq Action Team continued preparatory activities in Vienna, including work to develop a system of Ongoing Monitoring and Verification. The United States continued to provide tangible support to the IAEA in 2000, including personnel, technical advice on information management, and equipment.

The U.S. regular assessment is approximately 25 percent of the IAEA regular budget. Total IAEA resources from U.S. assessments and extrabudgetary contributions were approximately \$91 million in 2000. The United States remained the largest single contributor of voluntary support to the IAEA. The U.S. extrabudgetary contribution of \$43 million went to support the Technical Cooperation Fund, technical assistance to safeguards, cost-free experts, in-country technical projects, U.S.–hosted training courses and fellowships, nuclear safety projects, and application of safeguards nuclear material to excess defense needs in the United States. With the steady increase in IAEA responsibilities, the IAEA was extremely reliant on voluntary contributions to support many of its key programs including safeguards.

## **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

Established in 1944 and a UN specialized agency since 1947, ICAO fosters the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation. ICAO sets international standards and recommended practices for civil aviation, thus ensuring its safety and security worldwide, and provides technical expertise for countries in matters of air safety and security. Because the United States leads civil aviation in the fields of research, safety and security innovations, and aviation manufacturing and transport, both the public and private sectors in the United States have great interest in the work of ICAO. In 2000, the membership of ICAO was 185 states. Of the 308 professional staff of ICAO, 17 were U.S. citizens.

**Aircraft Noise and Engine Emissions.** ICAO made substantial progress during 2000 toward the development of new Stage 4 airplane noise standards and aircraft engine emission standards that will be equitable for all regions and countries. In January 2001, ICAO's Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) reached agreement on measures to reduce aircraft noise and engine emissions.

An important CAEP recommendation was agreement on the establishment of a new noise standard (Stage 4) which is 10 decibels lower than ICAO's current standard. If the Assembly approves the new standards, they will eventually replace the Stage 3 standards, which were adopted in 1977.

CAEP also endorsed a market-based open emissions trading program consistent with the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change to reduce aircraft engine emissions. The recommendations made by CAEP will be reviewed at the triennial ICAO Assembly that will be held in Montreal September 25–October 5, 2001.

**US–EU (European Union) Hushkits Dispute.** In November 2000, ICAO's Council ruled against the preliminary objections filed by the EU in response to a U.S. proceeding filed under Article 84 of the Chicago Convention challenging a discriminatory EU regulation which limits the operation of re-engined or "hushkitted" aircraft, and aircraft of a certain design, within Europe. The EU was then obligated to file a substantive response to the U.S. challenge. Pursuant to the rules for the settlement of difference, both parties have subsequently agreed to mediation facilitated by ICAO's Council President.

**Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program.** The 1998 ICAO Assembly adopted an enhanced and more effective Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program, providing for regular, mandatory, systematic, and harmonized aviation safety oversight audits of all member states. At the end of 2000, ICAO had audited 131 of its 185 contracting states under this

Program. The scope of the Program was limited to legislation, civil aviation organization, procedures and practices as they related to personnel licensing, and the operation and airworthiness of aircraft. The 2001 ICAO Assembly will consider expanding the program to cover air traffic services and airports. The United States strongly supported ICAO's Safety Audit Oversight Program which contributes to the safety of U.S. citizens traveling abroad.

**Montreal Convention.** In September 2000, the new Montreal Convention that is intended to replace the 1929 Warsaw Convention on liability for airline accidents was transmitted to the U.S. Senate for advice and consent to ratification. The new Convention was opened for signature at Montreal, Canada, on May 28, 1999. Since then it has been signed by 66 countries and ratified by 8, including Mexico and Japan.

The Convention represented a vast improvement over the liability regime established under the Warsaw Convention.

**Convention on Mobile Equipment Financing.** During 2000, the ICAO Legal Committee, in cooperation with UNIDROIT (an organization that promotes private international law), prepared a draft convention and draft protocol on international financial security rights in aeronautical mobile equipment. The ICAO Council authorized the convening of a Diplomatic Conference during 2001 to consider the draft convention.

**Year 2000 Computer Problem (Y2K).** ICAO's Y2K program was implemented successfully and substantially assisted member states in overcoming Y2K computer problems. ICAO worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to obtain and disseminate information on Y2K compliance for all countries. In order to facilitate public access to air safety information, the FAA published on its website ICAO's Y2K compliance data.

**Global Navigation Satellite Systems.** During 2000, ICAO continued to work toward the implementation of the Global Navigation Satellite System, an advanced satellite navigation system which uses the U.S. Global Positioning System and the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System in many civil applications including aviation.

**Communication Networks.** ICAO made substantial progress in upgrading communication networks with its 185 contracting states during 2000. The establishment of ICAO-Net made an increasing number of ICAO documents and databases available via the Internet. Regional offices also were linked electronically to ICAO Headquarters in a secure network.

**The ICAO Budget.** ICAO's budget for 2000 was \$48.58 million, of which the U.S. share, at 25 percent, was \$12.145 million. This amount was paid in December 2000. The U.S. Government provided additional finan-

cial and in-kind resources for the Safety Oversight, Aviation Security, and English Language Training Programs of ICAO.

## **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), based in Rome, was established in 1977 as a major outcome of the 1974 World Food Conference. IFAD provides loans to its member states to augment food production and alleviate rural poverty. The organization helps the rural poor in developing countries combat hunger, poverty, and poor health; raise productivity, income, and their quality of life; and empower themselves.

The United States was a founding member of IFAD because the U.S. Government places importance on its mission. IFAD is well equipped to reduce conflict and to advance broad-based economic growth and humanitarian objectives. Basic food security is a precondition for economic development, and IFAD promotes sustainable and community-based rural development with an emphasis on food security. IFAD encourages developing nations to adopt policies that are market-based, gender equitable, and environmentally sound. Since many of IFAD's professional staff are developing country nationals, promotion of sound economic policies in developing nations is better facilitated through collaboration with IFAD than through bilateral dialogues between developed and developing country governments.

IFAD projects fall into nine categories: agricultural development; financial services; rural infrastructure; livestock; fisheries; capacity-building and institution-building; storage, food, processing, and marketing; research, extension, and training; and off-farm activities. These projects tend to be innovative and small. Technical assistance grants are provided to strengthen capacities involving agricultural and rural development. IFAD also funds special programs, including one on drought and desertification in sub-Saharan Africa.

Since its inception, IFAD has financed 578 projects in 115 countries and independent territories with \$6.93 billion in grants and loans. Funding has come from governments, recipient country financing sources including project beneficiaries, and multilateral and bilateral donors. Most of its resources are available to low-income nations through loans with highly concessional terms, repayable over 40 years. It is estimated that 52 million rural poor households, or approximately 237.5 million people, have benefited from these resources.

IFAD is sustained through voluntary contributions. Since IFAD's beginnings, there have been five replenishments of its resources, with industrialized member states providing two-thirds of total contributions



and developing member states the remaining third. The fifth replenishment dollar amount target is \$460 million. The United States is the largest contributor and has provided about \$575 million since 1977.

The IFAD Governing Council is the Fund's highest decision-making authority. All 161 member states are represented on the Council. The Executive Board, comprised of 18 members and 18 alternate members, oversees general operations and approves loans and grants. The member states elect IFAD's President, while the President selects the Vice-President. The current President, Fawzi H. Al-Sultan (Kuwait), is serving his second four-year term. The Vice-President is John Westley (United States). Both of their terms will end in February 2001. Along with the President and Vice-President, 132 professionals staff IFAD.

### **International Labor Organization (ILO)**

The ILO, founded in 1919, is the only tripartite organization in the UN system. Based in Geneva, it has 175 member countries represented by governments, workers, and employers. The ILO is the only international agency in which the private sector participates fully with government.

The ILO's mandate is to advance humane conditions of labor and social stability around the world by promoting democracy and human rights, employment and the alleviation of poverty, and equality and protection of working people. The ILO seeks to define common standards of decency applying to workers among nations involved in international trade. American workers and business can compete fairly if international labor standards help level the playing field. With the ILO's tripartite system, U.S. business and workers benefit by participating in the development of international labor standards that affect their operations.

As the Government of one of ten countries of "chief industrial importance," the United States has a permanent seat on the ILO's 56-member Governing Body. In addition, an American worker (from the AFL-CIO) and an American employer (from the U.S. Council for International Business) have each won election to seats on the Governing Body. They speak and vote independently of the U.S. Government.

Government, worker, and employer delegations from the United States actively participated in Governing Body meetings in March and November, and in the 88th International Labor Conference in June 2000. U.S. delegations also participated in three sectoral meetings during 2000: the Meeting of Experts on Safety in the Use of Insulating Wools; a Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labor Impact of Globalization in the Manufacture of Transportation Equipment; and a Tripartite Meeting on Labor Practices in the Footwear, Textiles, and Clothing Industries.

During 2000, consideration of an ILO Convention on Maternity Protection, workers' rights issues, ILO reform, and a possible new ILO Con-

vention on Health and Safety in Agriculture dominated much of the attention of the Governing Body and the International Labor Conference in June. Progress toward these objectives was as follows:

- The Convention on Maternity Protection (#183) was adopted by the International Labor Conference.
- Based on thorough study, ILO supervisory bodies (Governing Body (GB), GB Committee on Freedom of Association, Independent Committee of Experts, and the ILO Conference Committee on the Application of Standards) in 2000 again highlighted serious abuses of trade union and other fundamental rights in Burma and Colombia. The International Labor Conference invoked Article 33 of the ILO Constitution to take concrete action implementing recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on forced labor in Burma. Regarding violation of workers rights in Colombia, action by the ILO Governing Body proved unnecessary after an agreement was reached between the Government of Colombia and Colombian trade unions on procedures for investigation of violations of workers' rights in that country. In each case, the United States strongly supported the consensus endorsing these steps.
- The Director General of the ILO, Juan Somavia (Chile), moved swiftly to implement his reform program for the ILO. This program is centered on four strategic objectives outlined in the ILO publication "Decent Work." All ILO activities are being directed toward achieving those objectives. Further demonstrating the Director General's commitment to reform, he submitted program proposals for the 2001–2002 budget to Governing Body in November. They provoked a rich and fruitful discussion.
- A first discussion of a possible convention and/or recommendation on Safety and Health in Agriculture was held. This discussion will be continued during the International Labor Conference in June 2001.

The United States sees the ILO as an important vehicle with which to highlight and attack exploitative child labor, a major U.S. priority. For 2001, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$45 million to support the ILO's "International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor" and an additional \$37 million to improve working children's access to basic education. These allocations followed appropriations of \$30 million in both 1999 and 2000. These funds supported ILO programs, which removed tens of thousands of children from exploitative work, placed them in schools, and provided their families with alternative income-producing opportunities. They also enable countries to develop mechanisms and skills to combat child labor problems in a sustainable manner. ILO programs removed target children working in commercial agriculture in Cen-

tral Africa, industrial sectors in Bangladesh and Pakistan, coffee production in Central America, domestic service in Haiti, and the footwear and fishing sectors in Indonesian and the Philippines, among others.

The new UN Staff College, located at the ILO Training Center in Turin, completed its third full year of operation in 2000. A self-funding institution, the UN Staff College sought to contribute to the ongoing process of system-wide UN reform through short, focused training in areas such as management within existing resources.

The U.S. assessment for the ILO in calendar year 2000 was 89.4 million Swiss francs, or approximately \$55 million.

## **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

The IMO's principal objectives are to foster cooperation among governments on technical matters affecting international shipping, to achieve the highest practicable standards for maritime safety, and to prevent marine pollution. The IMO also develops conventions and treaties concerning international shipping, facilitates international maritime affairs, and provides technical assistance in maritime matters to developing countries. IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) has a major program of work to develop standards and practices to protect against pollution from oil spills, hazardous and noxious cargo and ship waste, ballast, and emissions.

IMO's membership in 2000 increased to 158 with the acceptance of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. "Hong Kong, China" and Macao continued as associate members. IMO's membership encompasses 98.6 percent of world shipping tonnage and its major treaty instruments have attained almost universal coverage with 33 of 40 IMO treaty instruments currently in force. IMO adopted its second consecutive zero nominal growth budget during its 21st Assembly that was held November 15–25, 1999. IMO continued its excellent record of good management and transparency during the 2000–2001 biennium.

IMO made substantial progress on important environmental and safety issues during 2000. The MEPC approved proposals to amend MARPOL 73/78 (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978) to accelerate the phasing out of single-hull oil tankers. The approval paved the way for the adoption of a revised regulation (13G) by MEPC during 2001. MEPC approved in principle the draft International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems. A Conference to adopt the Convention was planned for late 2001. MEPC also adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex V, to the International Bulk Chemical Code, and to the Dangerous Chemical and Bulk Code that deal with cargo use requirements, protection of personnel, and carriage of carbon disulfide.

IMO's Legal Committee, at its 82nd session in October, adopted amendments to raise by 50 percent the limits of compensation payable to victims of pollution by oil from oil tankers. Although the United States is not a party to conventions that limit liability for oil pollution incidents, it supported raising international liability limits as a means to promote more stringent preventative measures.

The maritime safety and maritime environmental protection measures that are approved by IMO's committees during 2000 and 2001 will be reviewed at the organization's 22nd Assembly that will be held in London in November 2001.

As a major player in international maritime trade, the United States reaps great benefits from the work of the IMO while paying only about 4 percent of its assessed budget (about \$1.1 million yearly). Assessments are based chiefly on registered shipping tonnage, with Panama and Liberia, as major open registry countries, among the most important contributors. The United States has no arrearages of IMO assessments.

## **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

Established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the ITU serves as a forum for governments and the private sector to coordinate technical issues affecting the operation of international telecommunication networks and services that have potentially important commercial consequences. There are now 189 member countries in the ITU. Plenipotentiary Conferences, to which all ITU members are invited, are held every 4 years. The next Conference will be held in 2002.

**ITU Council.** The 46-member ITU council is an elected body comprised of representatives from five administrative regions—the Americas, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. The Council meets annually between quadrennial ITU Plenipotentiaries conferences to address management and other issues according to its mandate.

The ITU Council 2000 meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, July 19–28, represented a milestone for the United States. For the first time, the U.S. delegation included two private sector representatives.

The issue of ITU reform was a ubiquitous theme at the Council meeting. Delegates agreed that the ITU must change to keep up with the accelerated pace of industry development. However, Council members acknowledged the ITU must maintain its integrity as an intergovernmental organization.

The Council meeting was often contentious but a number of important decisions were made, among them approval of the agenda for the next World Radio Communication conference scheduled to be held in June 2003; approval of a recommendation to discuss the policy and financial

implications of Internet Protocol telephony at the next World Telecommunications Policy Forum to be held in Geneva in March 2001; and approval of the use of strategic workshops in the effort to involve the private sector in ITU decision-making process. The Council approved, over U.S. Government objections, a recommendation to hold a World Summit on the Information Society.

**The World Radio Communication (WRC) Conference.** The WRC Conference was held May 8–June 2, 2000, in Istanbul, Turkey. Issues covered by the WRC included continuation of the process of simplification of the Radio Regulations; allocation of additional radio spectrum for new commercial satellite systems; revision of the maritime mobile and aeronautical mobile regulations; protection of spectrum used by the Global Positioning System (GPS) from new allocations that could cause interference with GPS operations; and a new allocation for GPS for use in civil aviation applications.

**The World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA).** The quadrennial meeting of the WTSA was held in Montreal, Canada, September 27–October 6. A major achievement of the WTSA was the decision to give the Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group greater authority to address issues that require prompt action during the four-year intervals between WTSA's. This should allow the ITU to be more responsive to changes in the telecommunications environment. Other WTSA achievements were the alternative approval process—a fast-track approval process for the adoption of standards of a technical nature that do not have policy or regulatory implications; a new category of participation called Associates that would enable entities with highly focused areas of interest to participate in the work of a single selected Study Group; and term limits for the ITU–Telecom Standardization Study Group Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The WTSA approved, over U.S. Government objections, a recommendation on the International Internet Connection (IIC). The IIC calls for bilateral agreements when Internet providers establish a circuit between two countries to carry Internet traffic. In opposing the recommendation, the U.S. delegation noted that strong private sector leadership has resulted in rapid growth of the Internet and governments and international organizations—such as the ITU—must refrain from unnecessary regulations or recommendations that might halt the spread of that growth. Adoption of this proposal could result in a substantial portion of the cost on Internet traffic being transferred to U.S. companies. The U.S. delegation stated that the U.S. Government would not honor this recommendation.

## **International Trade Center (ITC)**

The ITC is the focal point of the United Nations for technical cooperation in trade promotion. A joint subsidiary organ of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO), the ITC works with developing countries and economies in transition—especially their business sectors—to set up effective trade promotion programs for expanding their exports and improving their import operations. Headquarters operations are funded jointly by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the WTO. Technical cooperation programs are funded by the UN Development Program (UNDP) and by voluntary contributions from governments and organizations. ITC headquarters are in Geneva.

Since 1994, the ITC has been involved in a program to better focus the Center's work program to assist the neediest countries, primarily in Africa. One product of the ITC's orientation is the WTO/UNCTAD/ITC Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP). JITAP was launched in March 1998 and now supports projects in Tunisia and seven sub-Saharan countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Thirteen donors contribute to its funding, which currently amounts to around \$10 million. In addition, the ITC supports an administrative unit that coordinates the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, which was established by a High-Level Meeting of the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and UNDP in late 1997.

## **UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

Director General Koichiro Matsuura's (Japan) (elected November 1999) ongoing organizational reform in the key areas of staff policy, secretariat structure, and decentralization was the dominant activity at UNESCO during the year 2000.

The United States maintained official observer status at UNESCO and continued to believe that UNESCO had largely addressed the issues that led to U.S. withdrawal from the organization in 1984. U.S. budget issues, however, impeded reentry during 2000.

The overall goal of U.S. participation in UNESCO's activities during 2000 was to work, in a manner consistent with observer status, to protect and promote U.S. interests in the organization. As a nonmember state, the United States paid no assessed contribution, but provided approximately \$2.25 million in voluntary contributions to selected UNESCO programs. These priority programs sought to:

- promote and vigorously defend the free flow of ideas;

- open access to education for all;
- build understanding of democratic principles and practice;
- transfer scientific knowledge and construct infrastructures necessary to that end; and
- protect the cultural and natural heritage.

During 2000, U.S. representatives attended the 159th and 160th sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board, the World Education Forum in Dakar, and a number of other important UNESCO meetings on cultural diversity and globalization and the Internet. A 10-member U.S. delegation composed of maritime, commercial, defense, and archeological interests also participated actively in UNESCO's third experts group meeting for the negotiation of a convention for the protection of underwater cultural heritage.

At the 159th Executive Board session, member states were openly supportive of the Director General's reform proposals, which included reducing top-heaviness by 50 percent and undertaking internal restructuring to merge or eliminate a significant number of sub-units within the organization's five major sectors. The Board also approved Matsuura's proposal, as requested by the 30th General Conference, to adjust the program and budget for 2000–2001 in order to identify \$10 million in savings, mainly from staff and travel costs, for redirection to new management requirements and priority program activities.

The establishment of an office of internal oversight, proclaimed by donor states as the pillar of the reform process, was a significant achievement of the 160th Executive Board and Matsuura's overall reform program.

At the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal (April 26–28, 2000), the United States joined 180 other countries in endorsing the Dakar Framework for Action—a revitalized collective commitment to achieve education for all by 2015. Reaffirming the U.S. commitment to basic education, Gene Sperling, Economic Adviser to President Clinton, described the Dakar Framework as “rightly [presenting] basic education as a springboard to economic opportunity, better health, empowerment of women, sustainable population growth and environmental conditions, and stronger democratic participation and respect for human rights.” The White House subsequently announced that the U.S. Government would increase by 50 percent its bilateral funding for basic education in 2000 as well as expand debt relief to countries pledging to foster basic education.

The United States continued to play a significant role in the work of the two independent bodies associated with UNESCO: the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Heritage Committee (WHC). In preparation for the 24th session of the World Heritage Com-

mittee (held in Cairns, Australia November 2000), U.S. delegates actively contributed throughout the year to the formulation of recommendations aimed at enhancing implementation of the World Heritage Convention, revising its operational guidelines, and increasing representativity of both the World Heritage List and the World Heritage Committee.

UNESCO's total membership remained at 188 sovereign states in 2000.

## **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**

The UPU, with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, exists to facilitate international communications through the efficient operation of postal services across borders. The United States has been a member of the UPU since its founding (as the General Postal Union) in 1874. The UPU now has 189 member states. Thomas E. Leavey (United States) is the Director General.

During 2000, U.S. delegations attended the annual meetings of the 40-member Postal Operations Council in April, the 41-member Council of Administration in October, and four meetings of the newly formed High-Level Group on the Future Development of the UPU. All meetings were held at UPU headquarters. The U.S. Postal Service also led and participated in numerous UPU working groups during the year, sharing U.S. expertise on issues such as postal security, postal development, quality of service, express mail, direct marketing, and financing arrangements, including UPU "terminal dues" procedures.

Taking into account 1998 legislation that gave the U.S. Department of State primary responsibility for U.S. relations with the UPU, U.S. delegations to the Council of Administration and the High-Level Group were headed by Department of State representatives. Officers of the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Postal Rate Commission joined the delegations, and the Department of State included representatives of private sector mailers and express carriers on U.S. delegations in an effort to broaden exposure to and participation in the work of the UPU. The United States was the only country to broaden its delegations in this way.

The Department of State also sought to broaden the amount of information about UPU being made available to the public. Reports on the results of UPU meetings were published on the Department of State website. Also published were advance notices of public briefings offered by the Department of State, as well as a new U.S. Government policy statement on U.S. objectives in the UPU. In early 2000, the General Accounting Office (GAO) completed a study on "The Department of State's Implementation of Its International Postal Responsibilities," and a hearing on the GAO report was held by the Subcommittee on the Postal Service of the House Committee on Government Reform. Ambassador E. Michael



Southwick joined witnesses from the U.S. Postal Service and other U.S. Government agencies in testifying at the hearing on March 9.

In meetings of the High-Level Group, which is charged with considering reform of the UPU, U.S. delegations continued to press for more openness and transparency in UPU operations. While numerous other countries had rejected proposals for steps to include the private sector in UPU meetings at the UPU Beijing Congress in 1999, there appeared during 2000 more support for a UPU with additional openness. Nevertheless, some countries continued to argue that inclusion of private express carriers in UPU meetings could put the traditional posts at a competitive disadvantage.

Under terms of a resolution of the 1999 Beijing Congress, the High-Level Group will present its final report to the Council of Administration in October 2001. The Council then has the opportunity to initiate steps toward a UPU plenipotentiary meeting in 2002; this meeting would take the formal steps to solidify the High-Level Group's reform proposals in the UPU Legislative Acts. U.S. delegations at meetings in 2000 repeatedly warned that failure of the High-Level Group and the Council to move forward with concrete reforms would be fatal for the UPU. Ambassador Southwick told delegates that UPU would be increasingly irrelevant if it concentrated on traditional postal operations and ignored other aspects of the communications and delivery sectors, including the growing roles of electronic mail, the Internet, the express carriers, and the growing alliances between public and private postal operators and between the posts of different countries.

The new UPU Private Sector Advisory Group held its first two meetings in May and October. Representatives of the Department of State and U.S. Postal Service participated in the meetings. U.S. officials continued to encourage all interested parties in the private sector to take advantage of the opportunity created by the Beijing Congress to permit private organizations to become more familiar with UPU operations and to offer their advice. Twenty-seven organizations were invited to the first meeting, covering a span of interests from express carriers to direct marketers, labor unions, postal equipment manufacturers, and promoters of postal services for the world's blind people. However, there was some dismay among the organizations about lack of opportunity for substantive discussion in these one-day meetings. Only nine agencies participated in the second session, and some participants had criticized the meetings as being too process-oriented. As a result, the Advisory Group established a small steering committee to plan for future sessions. The United States, which had expressed great interest in the success of this Group, was included in the steering committee.

U.S. delegations were very active throughout the year in working to develop the transitional UPU “terminal dues” structure, the arrangement by which one country compensates another for delivery of international mail. The U.S. goal is to have the UPU terminal dues system increasingly based on actual costs. Substantial attention was given to the provisions of Article 43 of the UPU Beijing Convention (1999), which deals with remail, in particular a situation in which a mailer in one country ships mail to a second country for delivery in the original country in order to gain the benefit of lower rates. To develop expertise on this complex subject, the U.S. Postal Service, the Department of State, and the Postal Rate Commission in 2000 contracted for a study of the projected impact of Article 43 on the U.S. Postal Service under varying conditions and situations. The study is expected to be completed near the end of 2001.

The Council of Administration approved the regular budget of the UPU for the biennium 2001–2002. All previous UPU budgets had been annual. The new budget was set at 69,207,490 Swiss francs for the two-year period, about \$40,700,000. UPU budgets are assessed on the basis of “contribution units” voluntarily subscribed by member states. For the 2001–2002 budget, there were 878 contribution units, of which the United States provided 50, which was about 5.69 percent of the UPU budget. The U.S. assessment is approximately \$1,150,000 per year, depending on exchange rates at the time of payment. The U.S. delegation praised the UPU staff for adhering to a budget process based on zero nominal growth.

U.S. Postal Service and Department of State officers participated in a meeting of the Consultative and Executive Council of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain, and Portugal (PUASP), held in March 2000, at PUASP headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay. They also were active in the PUASP Congress, held in Panama City, Panama, in September. The PUASP Congress is held once every five years. The Congress reelected Mario Felmer Klenner (Chile) to a second five-year term as PUASP Director. The U.S. delegation used the opportunity of the Congress to promote reform in the postal sector, particularly in UPU and PUASP, and to gain adoption of a resolution urging balanced customs treatment for postal systems and express carriers.

## **World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group (the Bank) is composed of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), established in 1945; the International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960; the International Finance Corporation (IFC), established in 1956; and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), established in 1988. From their creation through June 30, 2000, the IBRD and IDA have provided more than \$470 billion in loans, either at near-commercial terms

(IBRD) or at concessional terms (IDA), for development projects and to support economic reform in developing countries.

During the Bank's 2000 fiscal year (ending June 30), 181 nations were IBRD members, 161 belonging to the IDA, 174 were members of the IFC, and 152 were members of MIGA. The United States remains the Bank's largest shareholder, with 17 percent of shares in the IBRD, 15 percent in IDA, 24 percent in the IFC, and 16 percent in MIGA.

Cooperation between the Bank and the United Nations has been in place since the founding of the two organizations and focuses on economic and social areas of mutual concern such as reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, and investing in people. James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank since 1996, has emphasized improved cooperation as part of broad reform programs at the Bank and the United Nations. The Bank has links with the United Nations at the policy-making level in the work of the General Assembly and its committees, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Bank actively participates in virtually all of the UN global conferences, including the upcoming Financing for Development High-Level Event (FFD). ECOSOC members recently participated in an exchange of views with the Bank's Executive Directors and such bodies as the Administrative Committee on Coordination on issues related to the FFD.

At the executive level, the Bank President and the Secretary General (and heads of UN programs, specialized agencies, and commissions) engage in an ongoing dialogue on many issues, including population, poverty reduction, institutional capacity building, humanitarian assistance, crisis and post-conflict interventions, human rights, HIV/AIDS, education, gender issues, governance and civil society, environment, and financing for development.

The two organizations have been working together to improve cooperation at the country level through better policy coordination, project implementation, cofinancing, and aid coordination. The Bank's proposed establishment of a Global Trust Fund for grant technical assistance has led to closer collaboration with UN Development Program to define the respective, complementary roles of the Bank and the United Nations in development.

The Bank is one of seven cosponsors of the Joint UN Program on AIDS, contributing over \$800 million so far in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Bank's partnership with the World Food Program links their food-for-work community infrastructure programs to Bank follow-up investments. The Bank has a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees covering operations in post-conflict areas. In addition, there is Bank-WHO (World Health Organization)

cooperation on WHO's "Roll Back Malaria" Campaign. The Bank is a major financier for the UN Special Initiative for Africa, and is cooperating with the Food and Agriculture Organization on a special food security program in Africa. At the operational level, there are hundreds of projects that are jointly financed and/or implemented by the Bank and the UN agencies in agriculture, industry, health, and education.

## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

The WHO, based in Geneva, was established in 1948 with the objective of "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health." After 52 years of activity, WHO was working in 2000 in close partnership with 191 member states and 2 associate members, many inter-governmental agencies, more than 180 nongovernmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 leading health-related institutions around the world designated as "WHO collaborating centers."

During 2000, U.S. representatives participated in meetings of the World Health Assembly, the WHO Executive Board, regional committees for the Americas, the Western Pacific, Africa, and Europe, and the Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. U.S. officials also participated in meetings of the management committees of WHO's major voluntarily funded programs (the Tropical Disease Research and Training Program, cosponsored by the UN Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank, and WHO; and the Human Reproduction Research Program, cosponsored by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank, and WHO), the intergovernmental negotiation body on a framework convention on tobacco control, and the governing body of the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which is cosponsored by WHO and seven other agencies. Within the WHO staff, there were more American citizens in professional posts than citizens of any other country. However, overall, U.S. citizens are still slightly under-represented at WHO. At year's end, Americans held the senior posts of Executive Director of the Communicable Diseases Cluster, Legal Counsel, Director of Internal Audit and Oversight, and Director of the Department of Governing Bodies.

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway, continued her leadership of WHO, having been elected to a five-year term in 1998. U.S. officials continued to support the wide-ranging reforms and strategic directions being implemented by Dr. Brundtland, including the refocusing of the WHO organizational structure along the lines of eight "clusters" of activity and development of a more results-based and unitary WHO budget, including both the regular and extrabudgetary resources. In general, throughout the year, Dr. Brundtland received high praise from WHO member states and numerous outside observers, including visitors

from the U.S. Congress, for innovative approaches and partnerships in tackling specific health issues.

A chief substantive action of the year was the decision of the Assembly in May authorizing the start of negotiations on a new Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by the year 2003. The U.S. delegation told the Assembly that the United States shared the concern for harm caused by tobacco and applauded WHO for its leadership to address this problem. A U.S. Government interagency group was established, under leadership of the White House Domestic Policy Council staff, to set the parameters of the U.S. negotiating position on the proposed convention. A U.S. delegation was active in a March 2000 prenegotiation preparatory meeting and in the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, held in Geneva in October.

The Assembly gave extended attention to HIV/AIDS, and adopted its first resolution on HIV/AIDS since 1996. The resolution, which required significant U.S. involvement in negotiations to reach a consensus text, addressed the need to develop a comprehensive approach on HIV/AIDS and to increase access to care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, including access to appropriate medicines at more affordable prices within the context of national HIV/AIDS strategies, which include a balance of both prevention and care. It also addressed the need to strengthen the capacity of health systems and for WHO to support implementing national drug price monitoring systems. WHO was asked to develop a global health-sector strategy as part of the UN system's strategic plan on HIV/AIDS for 2001–2005. The United States and WHO worked together to reject a request that the resolution call for WHO to develop and maintain a global price database, arguing that this was not feasible and not a good use of WHO resources. Brazil introduced a related resolution aimed at replacing the Revised Drug Strategy, adopted by the Assembly after long negotiations in 1999, but agreed to drop that proposal since the substantive issues had been effectively addressed during the revisions to the HIV/AIDS resolution.

The Assembly endorsed the WHO strategy and resolution on “prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases” such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases. The resolution recognized the trends and impact of noncommunicable diseases in aging populations and changing social patterns. WHO committed itself to give new priority to noncommunicable diseases, especially in developing countries, which face increased risks from such diseases.

Food safety was another key issue at the Assembly, proposed initially by the United States in 1999 as an issue where WHO's role should increase. The resolution identified food safety as a priority public health issue for WHO. The United States was able to dissuade several countries

from introducing unacceptable amendments related to genetically modified organisms. The final resolution was expected to revitalize WHO efforts and leadership on food safety issues, including cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The United States also noted the importance of WHO's emerging strategic work on cloning and the need to help shape the international approach to medical ethics and bioethics. WHO is already collaborating closely with the U.S. National Institutes of Health and others and is developing concrete proposals in this area.

With regard to the financial report for 1998–1999, WHO noted some positive trends: the level of arrears was falling, the collection rate of assessments was going up (though late payments remained a problem), program implementation was improved, monitoring and evaluation was getting increased focus, and there was a reduction in internal borrowing. Overall, the external auditor gave WHO high marks on the financial report for 1998–1999. The Assembly adopted updated Financial Regulations, which are designed to improve transparency in financial matters.

U.S. reform initiatives within WHO in 2000 included ongoing efforts to persuade WHO and its member states to take steps that would permit U.S. certification of the “benchmarks” included in U.S. legislation and thereby allow payment of U.S. arrears in WHO and other agencies. At year's end, the United States owed \$33.4 million in arrears from prior years. U.S. representatives gave special emphasis to the benchmarks related to the scale of assessments, internal oversight, and evaluation.

With regard to Taiwan, as in the three previous years, the 2000 Assembly took no action on an effort to insert on the agenda an item for discussion of observer status for Taiwan. The initiative was once again put forward by several countries that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Although there is no provision in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure for conferring observer status, it is understood that this can be achieved if it is approved by a majority of the members present and voting. However, such a proposal was overwhelmingly defeated in a vote in 1997. The Assembly's General Committee debated the issue in 2000, with speeches by those in favor of and those against conferring observer status to Taiwan, and ultimately recommended against inclusion of this new agenda item. In the Assembly plenary, under a previously agreed scenario aimed at avoiding another one-sided vote, there were several speakers on each side of the issue, after which the Assembly president said it appeared the plenary had agreed with the recommendation that there be no new agenda item. There was no vote.

The United States believes that the people in Taiwan should be able to contribute to, as well as benefit from, the work of the WHO. The U.S.

Government worked with Taiwan and others to seek appropriate ways for Taiwan's voice to be heard. The Administration reported to Congress regularly on this matter.

The Assembly gave attention to the long-standing agenda item on "Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine." A resolution highly critical of Israel was introduced by a number of Arab states. The European Union countries cosponsored the resolution when several politically-oriented references to the health conditions of Palestinian prisoners were removed. The United States called for a vote on the resolution in the committee of the whole because of its remaining political elements, but the resolution was adopted by a vote of 83 to 2 (U.S., Israel), with 11 abstentions. The U.S. delegation said that concern for the health of the Palestinian people should be the sole focus of the resolution, but instead the text took up inappropriate political issues. The United States also pointed out that it had provided more than \$60 million in assistance to the Palestinians for child survival and maternal health programs, including \$11 million in 2000. In the plenary, there was no call for a repeated vote, but Israel expressed its regret about political resolutions at the Assembly, and said such resolutions did not assist the peace process or the work of WHO.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution entitled "Aligning the Participation of Palestine in the World Health Organization with its Participation in the United Nations," which confers enhanced rights and privileges as an observer. The United States expressed a reservation, saying that the text attempted to preempt final status negotiations and thus complicated efforts to foster peace in the region. Israel also stated its opposition to the resolution along similar grounds. There was no vote. The resolution was adopted, although by "general agreement" rather than by consensus.

### **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**

The Directing Council of the PAHO convened at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 25–29. Representatives of all 38 PAHO member states participated, mostly at the ministerial level. U.S. officials were active in that meeting as well as in meetings of the PAHO Executive Committee and its Subcommittee on Planning and Programming. PAHO is directed by Dr. George Alleyne (Barbados), elected in 1994.

The Directing Council discussed and adopted resolutions on pressing health issues, including tobacco control, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, cardiovascular disease, essential public health functions, and pharmaceutical regulatory harmonization.

WHO's World Health Report for 2000, which had focused on health systems performance and included a performance ranking of all 191 WHO member states, received blunt criticism from a number of countries in the

Americas which were concerned about the methodology used and the apparent lack of consultation with member states on the data and process. WHO said it would work closely with member states on future assessments of health systems performance. A resolution adopted requested a more thorough consultation process and peer review.

On HIV/AIDS, the Council agreed that PAHO should proceed with plans for a regional revolving fund so that nations could obtain expensive HIV/AIDS drugs at lower prices. There was also considerable discussion on the status of HIV/AIDS in the Americas. Brazil asked that PAHO develop a regional database on drug pricing. The United States opposed this and negotiated a compromise whereby PAHO would facilitate the sharing of information on prices provided by governments.

### **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)**

The Governing Council of IARC, a subsidiary of WHO, met at IARC headquarters in Lyon, France, on May 11–12, 2000. The 18–member Council discussed IARC’s role on tobacco and cancer, IARC’s structure, publications, membership and payment issues, and IARC’s agreement with the City of Lyon.

The financial report for 1998–1999 showed a total program implementation rate of 99.6 percent. IARC’s Director, Dr. Paul Kleihues (Germany), said that 90 percent of payments were received in the year they were assessed. The Council was concerned that the members who joined in 1998, Argentina and Brazil, had not paid their annual assessment since the year they joined. The Council asked Dr. Kleihues to enter into discussions with Argentina and Brazil to either pay their assessments or withdraw from membership.

### **Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

UNAIDS began formal operations on January 1, 1996. Cosponsors are WHO, UNDP, the UN International Drug Control Program, the UN Children’s Fund, UN Population Fund, the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and the World Bank. During 2000, UNAIDS signed cooperation agreements with the International Labor Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The 22–member UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board (PCB), met in May in Geneva. The United States continued to be the major donor to UNAIDS, providing about 26 percent of the annual budget. Dr. Peter Piot (Belgium), Executive Director of UNAIDS, told the PCB that by the end of 2000 there would be 35 million people living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS had become the fourth leading cause of death in the world as a whole, he said.



The PCB emphasized the need for strengthening political support for attention to HIV/AIDS, especially at national level. The Board also gave extensive consideration to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, where AIDS had become the leading cause of death. It agreed that HIV/AIDS had presented a true development crisis, reversing many of the developmental gains of the past decade. The Board expressed strong support for the International Partnership Against HIV/AIDS in Africa, a UN initiative, and agreed on the need for an immediate, intensified and coordinated response, including at national level, and more decentralization of efforts.

## **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

WIPO promotes the protection of intellectual property rights throughout the world through cooperation among its member states. It administers various multilateral treaties that deal with the legal and administrative aspects of intellectual property. Intellectual property comprises two main branches: industrial property and copyright. Almost 90 percent of the countries in the world belong to WIPO.

In the area of industrial property, two treaties have recently been concluded. In 1999, the Patent Law Treaty was negotiated and has already been signed by 47 countries, including the United States. In 2000, the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs was concluded, and has 29 signatories, of which the United States is one.

In the area of copyright, WIPO members negotiated in 1996 a WIPO Copyright Treaty and a WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty further defining copyright standards for digital media. Neither has yet come into force. Delegates at a WIPO Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Performances and Audio–Visual Works in December 2000 agreed on a framework for a treaty, but certain issues remain to be resolved.

**Administrative Organization.** There are 175 members to the WIPO Convention. WIPO administers 18 international “unions” or treaties administering organs, each founded on a multilateral treaty. The two principal treaties are the Paris and Berne Conventions (160 and 147 members, respectively). These treaties, and a number of others, provide for the establishment of an “International Bureau” or secretariat. The International Bureau operates under the direction of WIPO member states through a General Assembly that meets in ordinary session every second year. The Paris and Berne Unions elect executive committees, which serve on WIPO’s Coordination Committee. The Coordination Committee elects the Director General, approves agendas for General Assemblies, and approves staffing decisions. A non–statutory Program and Budget Committee reviews planning and implementation of WIPO’s biennial program

and budget. Member states contribute to six of the WIPO unions, known as the “Program Unions.” Approximately 90 percent of WIPO’s budget is generated by fees for service.

**The WIPO General Assembly.** This year’s General Assembly, held in Geneva September 25–October 2, was an exercise in consolidation and reform, during which the U.S. Government joined consensus on a number of recommendations to increase efficiency in WIPO. Delegates voted to reduce fees for international patent registrations under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) by 17 percent for the most common users. They authorized a doubling of the budget to facilities construction—fully funded from surpluses previously generated by patent registration services. Delegates chartered a two-year effort to examine intellectual property rights issues related to traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and folklore; and they endorsed WIPO’s successful high-profile move into the adjudication of disputes over Internet domain name attributions. Responding to a U.S. proposal for reforms to rationalize the 1970 PCT, delegates voted to convene a Special Body to evaluate proposals by all interested member states and international searching and examining authorities.

**WIPO Reform Meetings.** A Working Group on Constitutional Reform (WGR) authorized by the 1999 General Assembly met in March and July 2000 to suggest ways to simplify and unify the structure of the various governing bodies for treaties established over the past century and more. The first steps effectively eliminated five governing bodies, reducing the total number from 21 to 16. At the third WGR meeting (March 6–9, 2001 in Geneva,) delegates will consider measures to formalize an *ad hoc* unitary contribution system and contribution classes, to further consolidate the various assemblies with the eventual aim of meeting in a Unitary Assembly, and to reform and perhaps to strengthen the Coordination Committee.

## **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

The WMO facilitates international cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for making meteorological, hydrological, and other observations. It also promotes rapid exchange of meteorological information, standardization of meteorological observations, and uniform publication of observations and statistics. It furthers the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, and agriculture. It promotes operational hydrology and encourages research and training in meteorology. WMO membership now includes 179 states and 6 member territories—all of which maintain their own Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

The WMO has two major scientific and technical programs. The first is the World Weather Watch which offers up to the minute world-wide

weather information through member-operated observation systems and telecommunication links with four polar-orbiting and five geostationary satellites. The second program has about 10,000 land observation and 7,000 ship stations and 300 moored and drifting buoys that carry automatic weather stations.

The World Meteorological Congress, which is the supreme body of WMO, meets every four years. It determines policies, approves the program and budget, and adopts regulations. The Executive Council is composed of 36 members, including the President and three Vice-Presidents. It meets annually to prepare studies and recommendations for the Congress, to supervise the implementation of Congress resolutions and regulations, and to advise members of technical matters. Members are grouped into six regional associations—Africa, Asia, South America (the United States is a member), North and Central America (the United States is a member), South-West Pacific, and Europe. Each of these regional groups meets every four years to coordinate meteorological and operational hydrological activities within their region and to examine questions referred to them by the Council. WMO has eight technical commissions responsible for aeronautical meteorology, agricultural meteorology, atmospheric sciences, basic systems, climatology, hydrology, instruments and methods of observation, and marine meteorology. The Marine Meteorology Technical Commission was recently merged with a similar group under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The technical commissions have quadrennial meetings. The Secretariat, headed by the Secretary General, serves as the administrative, documentation, and information center of the organization.

**WMO Congress.** The 13th WMO Congress was held in Geneva in May 1999. The 14th WMO Congress will meet in 2003.

**WMO Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC).** The FINAC held its nineteenth meeting at WMO headquarters on May 15, 2000. FINAC is made up of the six WMO regional presidents and representatives from eight selected member countries that advise the executive council on budgetary issues. This was not a budget year but FINAC members discussed several issues that had financial implications such as the negative impact on the organization of late payment of contributions and accumulated arrears. The Committee supported WMO's plans to gradually introduce results-based budgeting to provide objective and performance measures in the Secretariat's budget.

**WMO Executive Council.** The Executive Council (EC) was held May 16–26 at the new WMO Headquarters building in Geneva, Switzerland. For the first time, the U.S. delegation included a private sector member. Many EC members, including the WMO President, welcomed the addition of the private sector member on the U.S. delegation. This led to very posi-

tive discussions about the relationship between governments and the private sector in the area of weather and climate forecasting.

A new advisory group on climate and the environment met immediately before the EC. At that meeting and later in the EC, The U.S. Government representative vigorously opposed a recommendation to hold a Third World Climate Conference. In opposing the conference, the U.S. representative recalled that some EC members had indicated concern during other unrelated discussions that they would prefer that money be spent on WMO programs, such as observations and capacity building, rather than on regional or international meetings. He noted that the cost for such a conference would be high and that no money had been put aside for this in the WMO regular budget. He pointed out that the U.S. Government would provide no extra-budgetary funding for the proposed conference.

The EC held informal discussions on major issues facing the WMO. The topics included globalization, the role and operation of meteorological services, technical cooperation, global environmental monitoring and research, disaster reduction and transition to sustainability, partnership with other international organizations, and engagement of all members in the international collaborative work of WMO.

The next Executive Council session is scheduled for June 5–15, 2001.