



Introduction

The United States achieved some historic firsts at the United Nations in 2000. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) held several “Field Hearings” at the United Nations in January, the first time the SFRC ventured as a group from Washington to visit an international institution. Senator Jesse Helms spoke to ambassadors of the countries on the Security Council, the first time a U.S. Senator has done this (see Chapter 2 on UN Reforms). In December, the United States successfully persuaded the General Assembly to change the scales of assessments for the UN regular budget and for peacekeeping operations (see Chapter 7 on Administration and Budget).

The United States focused the attention of the Security Council on nontraditional areas, such as the international threat posed by HIV/AIDS and discussions on children and armed conflict. These discussions later included the role of women in peace and security. While peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic and Tajikistan and the mandate for the UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti ended through the influence of the United States, peacekeeping demand grew in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and East Timor. A new mission was established in Ethiopia and Eritrea following a cessation of hostilities and a comprehensive peace agreement (see Chapter 1).

The United States also continued its efforts to reform the United Nations and various organizations and specialized agencies regarding leadership, governance, financing, programs and activities, and budget discipline (see Chapters 1–8).

Political and Security Affairs:

With strong and effective U.S. participation, the UN Security Council addressed a number of challenges to international peace and security in 2000. The Security Council adopted two Resolutions (1302 in June and 1330 in December) renewing the Oil-for-Food (OFF) program in Iraq. The OFF program is designed to address the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi population while denying the regime of Saddam Hussein the ability to reconstitute its military or to acquire weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, with which to threaten its neighbors or its own people.

In close cooperation with the United Kingdom, the United States led the effort to establish an independent Special Court for Sierra Leone to

bring to justice those bearing the greatest responsibility for the commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law and relevant Sierra Leonean law. The court, authorized by Security Council Resolution 1315 on August 14, is one aspect of a multifaceted approach to assist Sierra Leone in its reconciliation and reconstruction.

Following the brutal murders of three UN workers by militia members in West Timor in September, the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1319, calling upon Indonesia to ensure safety and security in West Timor, to disarm and disband militia, and bring to justice those responsible for this crime. A Security Council mission, with U.S. participation, visited Indonesia and East Timor in November to observe compliance with Resolution 1319.

On October 28, the people of Kosovo took a significant step toward democracy by holding elections for municipal leaders. This was perhaps the international community's most important achievement during the year in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1244, designed to establish a self-governing, autonomous administration in the province.

The United States also strongly supported Security Council Resolution 1329 (adopted November 30), creating a pool of *ad litem* judges for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The appointment of these judges should make the Tribunal more efficient and effective by ensuring that the administration of justice is not delayed.

Sudan featured prominently among U.S. concerns. Because of Sudan's record of human rights abuses, its ongoing civil war, and its links to terrorist organizations, the United States opposed Sudan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council. The election of Mauritius in November was a welcome outcome that served the interests of both the United States and the broader international community.

In December, the Security Council adopted targeted sanctions against the Taliban in Afghanistan as part of the international effort to punish that regime for its sponsorship of terrorism.

UN peacekeeping is another tool to promote regional stability and deal with threats to international security while spreading the risks and costs among the international community. Demand for peacekeeping continued during 2000, especially in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and East Timor. The peace-process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was stalemated so that the forces deployed did not increase. A new peacekeeping mission was created following a cessation of hostilities agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, while peacekeeping missions ended in the Central African Republic, Haiti, and Tajikistan. The United Nations had 37,719 peacekeepers deployed (1,466 military observers, 7,715 civilian police, and 28,538 troops) on December 31, 2000, contrasted to 28,390 (1,236 military observers, 4,386 civilian police, and 12,768 troops) at the end of 1999.

The United Nations made progress toward enhancing its capacity to conduct peacekeeping. On March 7, Secretary General Annan appointed Lakhdar Brahimi to chair a blue-ribbon panel to review how UN peacekeeping is carried out. The panel made a number of recommendations for improvements in its report released on August 21. Many of the recommendations addressed problems that the United States had previously highlighted; in general, the United States supports implementation of most the panel's recommendations. A long-time effort to revise the rate of assessments for both the UN general budget and peacekeeping resulted in the reduction of the U.S. general budget rate to 22 percent and an agreement that will see the U.S. share of peacekeeping assessments decline over the coming years.

Economic and Development Affairs:

Within the UN system, economic and development affairs are handled in the UN General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its subsidiary commissions, and various organizations and specialized agencies. Major development agencies are the UN Development Program, UN Fund for Population Activities, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Program, International Fund for Agricultural Development, UN Center for Human Settlements, and UN Children's Fund. Within these bodies, the United States sought to promote good governance, integration into the global trading system, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, food security, adequate housing, and the welfare of children.

The General Assembly debated economic issues during its annual session between September and December 2000, including globalization, external debt crises, financing for development, trade and development, business and development, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development in Africa. Main themes for the July 2000 ECOSOC substantive session included the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based economy; funding operational activities for development; UN global conference follow-up and implementation of the HABITAT Agenda; and economic, humanitarian, and disaster relief assistance. The five economic commissions for Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Western Asia addressed economic and development concerns of their region. They coordinated regional input for UN conferences and UN special sessions involving the UN Conference for Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization, financing for development, least developed countries, housing and human settlements, and children.

Because of strong U.S. interest in the work of these entities, a primary U.S. objective was to improve their operational efficiency and accountability. The United States continued to work toward needed reforms regarding their leadership, governance, financing, programs and activities, and budget discipline.

Social and Humanitarian Affairs:

Humanitarian and social issues at the United Nations are considered in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as in a range of regional and specialized commissions, including the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and in the field of human rights, most notably the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

In the social arena, the United States supported resolutions in the General Assembly on several issues concerning human rights, social development, crime prevention, international narcotics, advancement of women, and protection of children. Thematic resolutions at the CHR allowed the United States to demonstrate strong support for civil and political rights and elimination of discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, or gender. Two resolutions introduced by the United States in the CHR (on the former Yugoslavia and on the Right to Democracy) passed overwhelmingly. Other resolutions supported by the United States in the CHR condemned human rights violations in, *inter alia*, Cuba, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, and Myanmar (Burma).

At the Commission for Social Development, the United States joined consensus on resolutions adopted on the International Year of Older Persons and on youth programs. A priority theme of the commission was "social services for all." At the CSW, the United States sponsored a resolution on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and cosponsored a resolution reaffirming the rights of women and girls infected by HIV/AIDS. The CSW also began preparations for a five-year follow-up to the Beijing World Conference on Women. U.S. participation in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice included negotiations on a convention to combat transnational organized crime.

The development organizations of the UN system continued to make important contributions to international efforts to promote sustainable development and broad-based growth, poverty alleviation, child and gender issues, good governance, and global food security. An important area receiving increased attention was how to ensure that economic redevelopment for refugees begins almost immediately and continues through the time they are able to return to their homes. Also, the General Assembly paid particular attention to the security of humanitarian personnel in the field.

The organizations devoted to these concerns include the UN Development Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Program, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Fund for Population Activities, Habitat, the UN Capital Development Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and UNAIDS. The United States has a seat on the governing board of each of these organizations. In view of U.S. interest in the work of these organizations, a primary goal had been to improve their operational efficiency and accountability. In this regard, the U.S.

Government continued to be successful in pushing for needed reforms in their governance, financing, and programmatic activities, as well as continued budget stringency.

Administration and Budget:

Good progress was continued in 2000 in the administrative and budget areas. Of key significance, the scale of assessments for the UN regular budget for the period 2001–2003, adopted by consensus, included a reduction in the ceiling rate from 25 to 22 percent. The General Assembly, for the first time, also established a formal scale of assessments for peacekeeping to replace the *ad hoc* methodology that had been used since 1973. The 2000–2001 biennium budget was maintained within its initially adopted \$2.536 billion level, and the United States paid nearly \$300 million towards its regular budget assessment for the year. At the same time, the scope and costs of UN peacekeeping remained high, with \$498 million contributed in fiscal year 2000. There was a new peacekeeping mission in Ethiopia/Eritrea, a ramping up of operations in South Lebanon as Israeli forces withdrew, a ramping up of operations in Sierra Leone, and the end of missions in Haiti, Central Africa Republic, and Tajikistan.

The new director of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), Dileep Nair, assumed his duties in April, and quickly expressed his commitment to improving and maintaining OIOS credibility, strengthening internal controls, and improving management performance. OIOS issued a report summarizing significant findings, recommendations, and actions taken in regard to 137 audits, inspections, investigations, and evaluations, and there was a continued high rate of managers' implementation of OIOS recommendations. In addition, nine reports were issued by the Joint Inspection Unit.

Specialized Agencies:

The key specialized agencies of the UN system strengthened efforts to deal with pressing global problems during 2000.

The spreading pandemic of HIV/AIDS received attention in a special session of the UN Security Council in January. Under the U.S. presidency of the Council, this historic session was the first meeting of the Security Council devoted entirely to a health issue. The meeting, and its key resolution on HIV/AIDS, served to support and reinforce the work of the UN Joint Program on HIV/AIDS, known as "UNAIDS." The World Health Organization (WHO) and other cosponsors of UNAIDS strengthened their efforts to address this issue, and the UN General Assembly decided to convene a special session on HIV/AIDS in June 2001.

WHO also began concerted work in drafting the details of a proposed Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. U.S. participants in the process conducted formal and informal briefings on these negotiations in order to ensure that interested parts of the U.S. civil society sector were kept up-to-date and that their views were known to concerned government agencies. There was further success in WHO's polio eradication

program, as its Western Pacific regional group joined the Americas and European regions in being certified polio free. WHO expects to certify its other polio-endemic regions as polio-free by 2005. WHO also convened roundtables on malaria, tuberculosis, tobacco, access to pharmaceuticals, food safety, and other key issues. These meetings served to bring together key players, including interested parties in the private sector, and pointed the way to further progress.

As of November 2000, a total of 53 states had signed Additional Protocols to their International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreements, and 17 states had brought their Additional Protocols into force. These were key steps in efforts to strengthen international safeguards on nuclear material. Also through IAEA, the United States began to develop support for strengthening the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, a key component of the international nonproliferation framework. The Convention now obligates states parties only to ensure physical protection of nuclear material used for peaceful purposes while in international use, storage, and transport. The United States is hoping to develop a consensus that broader state systems of physical protection are critical to managing the proliferation risks from illicit trafficking in nuclear material.

The 1998 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly adopted, with strong U.S. support, an enhanced safety oversight Audit Program, providing for regular, mandatory, systematic, and harmonized aviation safety oversight audits of aviation facilities in all member states. By the end of 2000, ICAO had audited 131 of its 185 member states under this program. The resulting improvement of aviation safety regulations were expected to provide direct benefits to U.S. citizens traveling abroad. The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, which was drafted through ICAO and came into force in 1998, had been ratified by 65 states by the end of 2000.

In September, President Clinton transmitted a new ICAO-sponsored Montreal Convention to the Senate for ratification. The Convention would supersede the Warsaw Convention, which set liability limits for victims of air travel accidents. The new Montreal Convention represented the culmination of four decades of efforts by the United States to increase or eliminate the meager limits of liability when passengers are killed or injured in international air carrier accidents. By the end of 2000, the new Convention, opened for signature at Montreal, Canada, on May 28, 1999, had been signed by 66 countries and ratified by 8, including Mexico and Japan.

In March, the United States filed with ICAO a complaint against a European Union (EU) airplane noise regulation that it said discriminated against American carriers and manufacturers (the "hushkit" rule). The EU regulation limited the operation of re-engined or "hushkitted" aircraft, and aircraft of a certain design, within Europe. In November 2000, ICAO's Council decided to overrule the EU's preliminary objections to the com-

plaint and to accept jurisdiction in order to resolve or settle it. Pursuant to the rules for the settlement of differences, both parties subsequently agreed to mediation facilitated by ICAO's Council President.

In the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a new High-Level Group spent the year considering reforms that could open the UPU to the private sector and improve choices for postal customers around the world. The High-Level Group was initially proposed by the United States. Agreement was reached in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on third-generation telephony (wireless) standards, which will facilitate U.S. access to the international market, and ITU adopted a fast-track process for adoption of new technical standards. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) started a system for the resolution of electronic trademark disputes. It also eliminated five of 21 technical councils as part of a process to simplify and unify a governing-body structure that had become very complex over the past century. The WIPO General Assembly also voted to reduce Patent Cooperation Treaty fees by 17 percent for the highest volume users, a step that will benefit U.S. companies which represent the overwhelming majority of patent filers.

New ground was broken in legally binding protection for children through the International Labor Organization's new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: resolutions in the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly on protecting children in armed conflict; and optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.

The General Assembly decided to convene a World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, to mark the 10-year anniversary of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Building on the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the General Assembly determined that the agenda should focus on lessons learned since the Rio meeting and on new issues unforeseen in 1992. The UN Environment Program, the regional commissions, and other related UN bodies in 2000 began substantive preparations for the Summit, whose final agenda will be determined by the CSD in 2002.

The leadership in most of the UN system agencies remained the same during 2000. However, this was the first full year of service for UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) Director General Koichiro Matsuura who, in his words, focused his attention on "ensuring that the UNESCO 'machine' is in proper working order and that its vision and program are focused and relevant."

