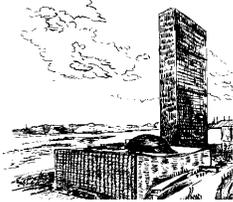


Part 3



Economic and Social Affairs

Economic and Social Affairs

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

Economic and Social Council

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

The 1999 ECOSOC session consisted of five segments. The High-Level Segment dealt with empowering and advancing women through using employment and work to mitigate poverty. The Operational Activities for Development Segment focused on improved coordination, reducing poverty, capacity-building, and the benefits of globalization. Development in Africa was the topic for the Coordination Segment. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment took up improving coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance. A frequently discussed theme was how to effect the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development. The General Segment included wide-ranging subjects involving the environment, social advancement, and human rights.

Subsidiary bodies reporting to ECOSOC include regional economic commissions and functional commissions. In 1998, U.S. membership in the functional commissions included membership in the Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Sustainable Development, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission for Social Development, Commission on Population and Development, Commission on the Status of Women, and the Statistical Commission. The United States belonged to three of the five regional economic commissions: the Economic Commission for Europe, Eco-

conomic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

General Assembly

The General Assembly's Second Committee covers economic and financial issues. The General Assembly's Third Committee handles social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, including human rights issues.

In the Second Committee, the United States took the lead on a Business and Development resolution, outlining the important role that a dynamic business sector plays in the development process. This resolution, which was adopted by consensus, also touched on such issues as core labor standards and the workplace environment. Other Second Committee resolutions on which the United States joined consensus included resolutions on globalization and interdependence, external debt crises, poverty, and development in Africa. The U.S. Government voted against resolutions on economic sanctions and equitable financial flows.

In the Third Committee, resolution topics included several human rights issues, social development, crime prevention, international narcotics, advancement of women, and protection of children.

UN Conference on Trade and Development

The UN General Assembly convened the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964 at the request of developing nations concerned about deteriorating terms of trade. UNCTAD subsequently evolved into a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and holds a major conference every four years. The tenth session, UNCTAD X, will take place February 2000 in Bangkok, when member states will take stock of major international economic developments during the past four years and consider strategies for better integration of developing countries into the world economy. The United States regards UNCTAD as a useful forum for North-South dialogue and a potentially valuable source of technical assistance to developing countries, especially in preparing them for accession to the World Trade Organization.

UNCTAD also convenes annual sessions of its Trade and Development Board (TDB) in Geneva. The 1999 session reviewed progress in the implementation of the Program of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the 1990s. The United States joined consensus in urging LDC governments, with the support of the international community, to further pursue economic reforms, structural adjustment programs, and public policy in addressing investment in human resources and physical infrastructure and in creating "an enabling environment for peace, economic growth, and development."

The TDB also examined African transport infrastructure, trade, and competitiveness, noting that high transport costs have seriously undermined the competitiveness of African exports and contributed to increased

prices of key imports, thus adversely affecting the balance-of-payments position of African countries. Private-sector financing of transport infrastructure was seen as a welcome new source of investment, and African governments were urged to create or improve enabling regulatory environments to encourage private-sector financing.

The TDB met for several additional weeks at the end of 1999 to prepare for UNCTAD X in Bangkok, with full participation by the U.S. delegation. A plan of action was drafted examining how development strategies can operate to make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries. This plan will be submitted for approval at UNCTAD X.

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is a 53-member functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council that was established in 1993 to monitor progress in implementing the set of sustainable development recommendations developed during the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The Commission's members are elected for three-year terms; the United States is currently a member. The CSD meets every year at the United Nations in New York City to review worldwide progress in sustainable development; to make policy recommendations; and to promote discussion among governments and members of civil society with a stake in sustainable development, including environmental advocacy groups, industry, farmers, and indigenous people.

The CSD held its seventh session on April 19–30 to address four major themes: (1) oceans and seas; (2) consumption and production patterns; (3) sustainable tourism; and (4) small-island developing states.

In preparation for its policy discussions, the CSD engaged representatives of nongovernmental groups in a two-day dialogue on the impact and contribution of tourism to sustainable development. Participants represented a broad spectrum of civil society, including business, labor, and environmental advocates.

Among the Commission's more significant recommendations were measures to promote sound management of fish stocks, encourage responsible fishing practices and compliance with international norms, and encourage efforts to protect the marine environment from land-based and other sources of pollution. Member states were urged to adopt the Law of the Sea convention on straddling and highly-migratory fish stocks and to adopt the Food and Agriculture Organization's code of conduct for responsible fisheries. The Commission also promoted greater cooperation with the tourism industry as a way of advancing both environmentally and socially-sound tourism.

Commission for Social Development

The 37th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) met in New York February 9–19. CSocD considered two priority themes: “social services for all,” and “initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the world summit for social development”; and the review of relevant UN plans and programs of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

Under the theme of “social services for all,” the Commission reviewed efforts undertaken and needed to reach the goal of universal coverage and access by all to basic social services; the need to improve the quality of service; steps needed to ensure provider responsiveness to user needs; and measures to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of services. The United States joined consensus on a resolution that contained agreed conclusions. The agreed conclusions consisted, *inter alia*, of an analysis and recommendations for action to promote the efficient and effective delivery of social services for all as a contribution to overall social development.

The Commission reviewed a preliminary assessment of achievements and constraints on the implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and began a process of identifying further initiatives for consideration by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. This Special Session, otherwise known as Copenhagen+5, will be held June 2000.

In accordance with earlier decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, CSocD considered issues pertaining to aging, in particular the International Year of Older Persons (1999). The Commission also had before it the outcome of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, August 8–12, 1998). The United States joined consensus on resolutions adopted on “The International Year of Older Persons: Toward a Society for All Ages” and “Policies and Programs Involving Youth.” On the latter, the United States disassociated itself from a paragraph that called for “personnel and resources to strengthen the UN’s youth unit” since the U.S. Government believed that there was need for better utilization of existing resources. The U.S. delegation delivered statements on “social services for all” and “further initiatives for the implementation of the outcome of the summit.”

A panel discussion was held with invited experts to consider the priority theme of social services for all and a panel on youth was organized; two dialogues with nongovernmental organizations were arranged on the priority themes. There were also presentations by the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and

the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund on basic education for all.

Regional Economic Commissions

The United Nations has five regional economic commissions: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). They are charged with "raising the level of economic activity" within their respective regions and "maintaining and strengthening the economic relations" of the countries within their scopes, "both among themselves and with other countries of the world." The regional commissions are funded out of the regular UN budget, but many of their activities are financed by extrabudgetary grants from bilateral and multilateral donors.

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

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

The ECE was established in 1947 and is based in Geneva. It consists of 55 member nations, including the United States, the former central Asian and Caucasian republics of the Soviet Union, Canada, Switzerland, and Israel. Executive Secretary Yves Berthelot, who currently heads the organization, has announced that he will step down in May 2000. The ECE's broad terms of reference aim to encourage cooperation and integration among its member states.

Several key actions occurred at the May annual session. Member countries agreed to have the ECE participate in the post-Kosovo reconstruction of the Balkans. The United States welcomed ECE cooperation with existing post-conflict reconstruction proposals.

In March, the UN Commission on the Status of Women invited the regional commissions to hold preparatory committee meetings (prepcoms) on the status of women. In examining how to integrate gender mainstreaming into the Commission's work program, ECE member states committed to holding a Beijing+5 prepcom (a review of the past progress in the five years after the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, September 1995). This prepcom will take place January 19–21, 2000, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Member states reviewed ECE technical support for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), programs to encourage economic and environmental cooperation in their respective regions. ECE technical assistance helped bring about two SECI milestones on harmonizing transport policies and combating cross-border crime. SPECA committed to

working on five projects, for which both the ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific provided technical support. The ECE appealed to Western countries to sign on as SPECA-supporting states.

The ECE was praised for its cooperation with other regional institutions, and particularly with the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe). Both organizations worked toward eliminating duplication and reinforcing each other's efforts. The ECE has provided support for OSCE economic events, including the annual OSCE Economic Forum in Prague.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

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

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

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

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

ECLAC meetings take place biennially. Since the last session occurred in 1998, no meeting was held in 1999.

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

ESCAP was established in 1947 and is based in Bangkok, Thailand. It consists of 51 member nations; the United States, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom are the non-regional members. Indonesia's Adrianus Mooy has been ESCAP Executive Secretary since 1995. ESCAP priorities include promoting regional economic cooperation and infrastructure development; sharing expertise on economic and social development; mitigating natural disasters; and coordinating and standardizing statistics gathering. Many ESCAP activities parallel U.S. objectives for Asia, which include alleviating poverty and advancing free trade, the status of women, and sustainable development.

The April 1999 annual meeting focused on the impact of globalization on the region. The U.S. view is that unless nations keep their economies open and implement sound national policies and practices, they cannot benefit from globalization's potential to increase growth and reduce poverty.

Some member states noted that developing nations could potentially use information technology to increase growth, and called for ESCAP to offer technical assistance on this.

On ESCAP reform, member states agreed that ESCAP must evaluate the effectiveness of its programs; avoid activities that other UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations handle; and review projects stemming from outdated Commission resolutions with a view toward reallocating scarce resources. In the Asian-Pacific region, the UN Development Program (UNDP), UN Environment Program (UNEP), and ESCAP all work on development and environment projects. UNDP and UNEP, however, have the advantage of operating with much larger budgets. So that ESCAP can make a valuable contribution vis-à-vis the other agencies, the United States called for ESCAP to redirect resources toward topics in which it has a comparative advantage. ESCAP's transportation and statistics programs are notable examples of this. We also urged that ESCAP's Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives (ACPR), which advises the Secretariat on broad policy issues and resource allocation, be strengthened. There was broad support for reinstating an ACPR informal working group that would meet regularly to discuss reform issues.

Human Rights

The United States continued its strong participation in UN human rights fora throughout 1999. The UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the UN General Assembly provided opportunities for the United States to highlight its concern about violations of human rights around the world. In 1999, the CHR adopted 82 resolutions and 13 decisions. The General Assembly adopted more than 45 human rights resolutions.

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

The CHR, which held its annual session in Geneva March 22–April 30, is the principal organ in the United Nations for achieving the Charter objective of promoting respect for human rights. It is composed of 53 members, including the United States, elected for three-year terms. Liberia, Mauritius, Niger, Qatar, Latvia, Romania, Colombia, and Norway were newly elected members. Ambassador Nancy H. Rubin led the U.S. Delegation to the 55th session of the Commission as the U.S. Representative.

The United States drafted and introduced a resolution on the former Yugoslavia, which was adopted by a vote of 46 (U.S.) to 1, with 6 abstentions (CHR 1999/18). Thirty-four countries cosponsored the resolution. India called for a vote on the section on Kosovo, which passed by a vote of 33 (U.S.) to 4, with 16 abstentions. The United States also drafted and achieved widespread support for a new resolution on the promotion of the right to democracy. Thirty-eight countries cosponsored the resolution, of which 22 were CHR members. Cuba tabled amendments, which were defeated, and the resolution was adopted by a vote of 51 (U.S.) to 0, with 2 abstentions (CHR 1999/57).

The United States worked closely with like-minded delegations to adopt resolutions condemning human rights violations in Kosovo, Cuba, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, and Burma. The United States was instrumental in achieving compromise language in a resolution on defamation of religions (CHR 1999/82), adopted without a vote. The United States actively participated in an open-ended working group on initial preparations for the 2001 World Conference on Racism and related CHR resolutions.

The United States introduced, but failed to achieve Commission support for, a resolution on the human rights situation in China. Poland cosponsored the resolution. The resolution was not brought to a vote of the Commission as a result of a no-action procedural motion (an argument by a country that the issues proposed for discussion do not fall within the scope of what the body should be considering) raised by China, which carried by a vote of 22 to 17 (U.S.), with 14 abstentions.

The 1999 (annual) substantive session of ECOSOC was in Geneva, July 5–30. ECOSOC adopted the CHR report and four draft decisions that the CHR recommended for ECOSOC adoption. The efforts of the United States and a group of like-minded countries forced Cuba to withdraw a draft decision that would have prevented the Human Rights Commission from any future consideration of Cuba, when it became apparent that it would fail. The U.S. Representative to ECOSOC delivered a statement focusing on the procedural and institutional threat posed by the Cuban initiative to ECOSOC and its expert bodies.

The UN Subcommittee on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held its annual session in Geneva, August 2–27. American independent expert David Weissbrodt participated in his fourth year on the Subcommittee. In confidential proceedings, the Subcommittee considered cases filed by individuals and nongovernmental organizations against countries alleged to perpetrate consistently gross violations of human rights. The Subcommittee adopted 30 resolutions, including resolutions on human rights situations in the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), human rights defenders, and women's issues. The Subcommittee Chairman made statements on Togo, Belarus, Indonesia, and Mexico.

During the 54th General Assembly, the United States played an active role in obtaining adoption of updated resolutions addressing the human rights situation of specific countries and fending off last-minute negative amendments. Highlights of the 54th General Assembly were the U.S.–sponsored resolutions on human rights in the countries of the former Yugoslavia (Resolution 54/184), adopted by a vote of 123 (U.S.) to 2, with 34 abstentions; and in Kosovo (Resolution 54/183), adopted by a vote of 108 (U.S.) to 4, with 45 abstentions. The United States cosponsored resolutions on Burma, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iran, and Rwanda.

The United States cosponsored a number of thematic human rights resolutions, including those on torture, religious intolerance, minorities, human rights defenders, and the UN decade for human rights education.

Status of Women

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) met in New York, March 1–19. It convened its 43rd session, March 1–12. The CSW met March 15–19 as the preparatory committee for Beijing+5, the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to the five-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan, the U.S. Representative to the CSW, led the U.S. delegation.

The main agenda items for its 43rd session were: follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women; drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; two critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action—health and institutional mechanisms; and the working group on communications.

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

The United States introduced a resolution entitled “Situation of Women and Girls in Afghanistan,” which gathered 56 cosponsors and was adopted by consensus. The resolution, *inter alia*, condemns the continuing grave violations of the human rights of women and girls; calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to recognize, protect, promote, and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to respect international humanitarian law; appeals to all states and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates a gender perspective and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men; and welcomes the establishment of the positions of Gender Adviser and Human Rights Adviser at the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator for Afghanistan.

The United States cosponsored one resolution: the Zambian resolution on “Women, the Girl Child and Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome,” which, *inter alia*, reaffirms the rights of women and girls infected by HIV/AIDS to have equal access to health, education, and social services, and to be protected from all forms of discrimination.

The United States called for a vote on the Group of 77 developing countries’ resolution entitled “Palestinian Women,” because the United States believes it prejudices final status issues that the parties have agreed to negotiate directly. It was adopted by a vote of 34–1(U.S.), with 4 abstentions.

At the 39th (1995) session, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended working group at its 40th session with a view to elaborating a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The working group continued its work during the 43rd session. At the end of the two-week session, the Commission adopted the Optional Protocol which establishes a mechanism that will permit the committee that oversees the Convention to review communications from individuals alleging a violation of a right set forth in the Convention.

By Resolution 1983/27, ECOSOC reaffirmed the CSW’s mandate to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status

of women and to make recommendations to ECOSOC as to what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications. It authorized the CSW to establish a five-member working group to consider the communications with a view to bringing to the Commission's attention those communications that appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women. The report of the working group was presented at a closed meeting of the CSW, on March 12. It expressed deep concern in relation to the continuing grave violations of women's human rights, and the persistent and pervasive discrimination against women.

The Commission, acting as the preparatory committee for Beijing+5, adopted a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century.'" The resolution, *inter alia*, lays out the organization of the special session, urges high-level participation, and encourages governments to include representatives of non-governmental organizations on their delegations.

Economic and Social Council

The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, which was devoted to "the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women" adopted, by consensus, a ministerial communique.

During its general segment, ECOSOC adopted the report of the Commission on the Status of Women and took action on the CSW draft resolutions and decisions that had been referred to it for adoption. All were adopted by consensus except the resolution on Palestinian women, which was adopted by a vote of 34 to 1 (U.S.), with 4 abstentions. ECOSOC also adopted by consensus a resolution on the "Revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women."

General Assembly Consideration

The General Assembly adopted by consensus ten resolutions under the agenda items "Advancement of Women" and "Implementation of the Outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women." The United States cosponsored two resolutions: "United Nations Development Fund for Women" (54/136), which, *inter alia*, recognizes the important work of the Fund; and "Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat" (54/139), which, *inter alia*, reaffirms the goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution.

The General Assembly also adopted by consensus the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Crime Prevention and Control

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the principal intergovernmental policy-making body of the United Nations in this field. The Commission held its 8th session in Vienna, April 27–May 6.

Much of the focus of the Commission centered around the ongoing negotiations of the Convention to Combat Transnational Organized Crime and three accompanying protocols, as negotiating sessions were held concurrent with Commission plenary sessions. The protocols address trafficking in persons, especially women and children; migrant smuggling; and trafficking in firearms. The main convention and the three protocols were the subject of several resolutions passed by the Commission.

The total number of resolutions considered by the Commission was down from prior years, but several of those introduced required extensive negotiations before they were acceptable to the U.S. delegation. The United States successfully coordinated with France on a resolution that highlighted recent international meetings on corruption and established a roadmap for future Commission action on this issue. The United States was also successful in negotiating away a proposal by Mexico to include explosives within the firearms trafficking protocol.

A third resolution, which addressed issues surrounding the 10th Crime Congress scheduled for April 10–17, 2000, also required significant negotiations. It included a draft political statement that is expected to be finalized at the Congress and the 2000 Commission meeting which immediately follows the Congress.

Finally, a resolution addressing scheduling of negotiating sessions for the organized crime convention and protocols which presented little difficulty during the Commission meeting required extensive negotiations during both the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly meetings. Italy asserted that the resolution allowed for the final negotiating session of the organized crime convention to be in Palermo, Italy, for up to four weeks. They envisioned this final session as also including a high-level signing ceremony. The United States, believing that all negotiations should be completed in Vienna prior to a scheduled signing ceremony, undertook extensive efforts to avoid a four-week negotiating session in Palermo. The compromise result was a resolution stating that all negotiations would be completed in Vienna prior to the signing ceremony. The United States agreed to a shorter session in Palermo only for the purposes of signing the convention and protocols.

In fiscal year 1999, the United States contributed \$925,000 to the UN Center for International Crime Prevention (Crime Center). Those monies went to support the organized crime convention negotiations, a project

addressing trafficking in women and children in the Philippines, and a technical assistance project addressing corruption in Hungary.

In 1999, the Crime Center launched three comprehensive global programs addressing trafficking in persons, organized crime, and corruption. Part of the U.S. contribution also went to support the programs on trafficking and corruption.

Negotiations on the organized crime convention were fast-paced during 1999, with sessions in January, March, April, June, October, November, and December. Those negotiations are expected to conclude in 2000.

Drug Abuse Control

The UN International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the International Narcotics Control Board, based in Vienna, are the primary UN drug control organizations. Both are key organizations supporting U.S. Government drug control objectives. The UN drug control conventions (the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) provide the framework for international drug control, including prohibiting cultivation of opium, cocaine, and marijuana; targeting drug traffickers and their proceeds; promoting national campaigns on drug abuse prevention and treatment; and regulating precursor chemicals used in the production of illicit drugs.

In 1999, concerted work began in follow-up to the “20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly to Counter Together the World Drug Problem” (UNGASS), which was held June 8–10, 1998. The UNGASS had highlighted the need for shared responsibility in combating the global drug problem and the need for multilateral cooperation. The international community renewed its commitment against illicit drugs with the adoption of the forward-looking political declaration, and in the concrete actions to implement the UN drug control conventions. Work began in 1999 to achieve the agreed UNGASS goals, including eradication of drug crops, demand reduction, stopping money laundering, judicial cooperation, and control of precursors and amphetamine-type stimulants.

The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) met in March. Its foremost task was to develop a plan for national reporting on achievements of UNGASS goals and establishment of criteria for the reports. The details were referred to a working group that met twice prior to a reconvened session of the CND in December. In addition, the CND approved an Action Plan on demand reduction, which provides guidance on implementing a broad spectrum of strategies and activities for reducing drug demand.

The CND approved two drug scheduling recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), to place the substances dihydroetor-

phine and remifentanyl under the 1961 Drug Convention controls. The United States led a CND rejection of a WHO proposal to place ephedrine under the 1971 Drug Convention controls. The United States based its position on the fact that there was insufficient evidence of abuse of ephedrine and in recognition of the wide use of ephedrine for legitimate medical purposes.

At the reconvened session in December, the CND approved a reporting mechanism on UNGASS goals that establishes reporting every two years and review by the CND. The reconvened session also adopted a budget for UNDCP for 2000–2001, an increase of 35 percent over the previous biennium to \$148.2 million. This was agreed to on the basis of projected increased voluntary contributions. With the additional resources, UNDCP will increase programming on important priorities in alternative development and eradication.

Pino Arlacchi (Italy) continued as Executive Director of the UNDCP. Arlacchi had established an Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention in order to address the interrelated issues of drug control, crime prevention, and terrorism. The United States supported further reforms in management and administration, including decentralization of responsibility and resources to field offices and streamlining program activities, the evaluation process, and financial operations. As a voluntarily funded program with UN regular budget support, UNDCP operated with a total budget of \$115 million in 1998–1999. In 1999, UNDCP provided drug control assistance to about 65 countries threatened by illicit production, trafficking, and abuse.

International cooperation was enhanced during 1999 on issues such as chemical control, money laundering, and maritime cooperation. UNDCP helped ensure that governments complied with the UN drug control conventions by providing assistance to countries in developing their national drug control plans and in taking appropriate legal measures. UNDCP continued its partnerships in 1999 with other UN agencies in promoting drug control.

U.S. support to UNDCP has had significant impact on the operations and expansion of UN counternarcotics programs and policy. The United States was particularly encouraged by UNDCP's emphasis in supporting elimination of illicit cultivation of opium and coca in 1999.

The U.S. contribution increased significantly in 1999 to \$25.305 million. This contribution supported a number of UNDCP programs, including a large research project designed to reduce production of poppy, coca, and cannabis. In South and Southeast Asia, U.S. contributions supported elimination of opium through alternative development. In Southeast Asia, UNDCP developed a regional law enforcement cooperation and training program with U.S. funds that will focus on the opium elimination effort and stopping heroin smuggling. U.S. support was also essential in the

development of a strong Central European demand reduction program designed to counter the growing decriminalization movement in that region. U.S.-funded UNDCP programs in the Western Hemisphere complemented bilateral aid. Such programs include development of a UN model to increase coordination and assess Caribbean anti-drug efforts, the establishment of a chemical control program in the Caribbean, and a forensic laboratory program in Central America.

NGO Committee

The United States recognizes that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have made valuable contributions to the work of the United Nations. The international community has benefited enormously from NGOs' expertise and experience in such fields as human rights, social development, humanitarian assistance, and environmental protection. Currently, NGOs may be granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) if they can demonstrate substantial interest in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The United States believes that civil society, in particular NGOs, play an important role in the international community. The U.S. Government advocates expanding their participation in the United Nations to include the plenary meetings of the General Assembly, and meetings of its main committees and special sessions.

Article 71 of the UN Charter provides that ECOSOC may make arrangements for consultation with NGOs that have interests in the issues within the Council's purview. ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 establishes the framework for NGO participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The United States is a member of the ECOSOC Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, a UN standing committee, which regulates NGO participation in the ECOSOC. The Committee holds annual meetings to consider NGO applications and discuss other matters relating to NGO participation. The Committee approved 106 NGO applications for consultative status during its 1999 sessions. Approximately 1,700 NGOs have received ECOSOC consultative status as of the end of 1999.

In October 1999, upon recommendation of the NGO Committee, ECOSOC voted to withdraw the consultative status of Christian Solidarity International (CSI), an NGO that administers a controversial slave redemption program in Sudan and is allied with Southern Sudanese Christians and animists, most notably Sudanese People's Liberation Army leader Dr. John Garang. Responding to a complaint from Sudan, a majority of the NGO Committee members objected to the fact that CSI had accredited Dr. Garang to speak on its behalf at a meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. The United States voted against withdrawing CSI's consultative status, saying that CSI's error did not represent a "flagrant breach and abuse of status" and was outweighed by the "many charitable acts that CSI has conducted around the world." Its

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removal “would silence a beneficial voice that has made a mistake” and asked that CSI be provided “with written reasons for the decision to withdraw or suspend their consultative status...to comply with the provisions of Resolution 1996/31, paragraph 56.”