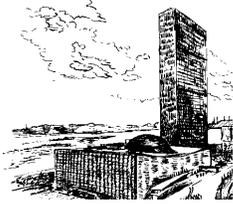


## Part 3



# Economic and Social Affairs

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## Economic and Social Affairs

### General Assembly

The UN Charter established the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the principal organs of the United Nations responsible for the issues covered in this section of the report. The General Assembly considers economic and financial issues in the Second Committee and social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, including human rights, in the Third Committee.

The phenomenon of globalization figured prominently in 1998 Second Committee general debate, with the Group of 77 (developing countries) noting a widening gap between them and the developed world. The U.S. delegation emphasized that the problem is not globalization itself but rather the inability of some countries to reap the benefits of globalization.

Other issues considered in the Second Committee included trade and development, debt issues, commodities, and the environment. The United States was successful in obtaining a consensus resolution on bribery and corruption that will keep this issue on the agenda of the international community. The United States joined consensus on all Second Committee resolutions except a resolution on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over natural resources in the occupied territories.

In the Third Committee, resolution topics included several human rights issues, social development, crime prevention, international narcotics, advancement of women, and protection of children. The United States joined consensus on most resolutions but opposed an unbalanced resolution on the right of Palestinians to self-determination, and also voted against a resolution entitled “Right to Development.” The U.S. delegation noted that while there was much in this resolution worthy of support, it was wrong and misleading to blame the current global financial crisis for the long-standing problems of food, health, education, and unemployment.

### Economic and Social Council

The 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 which most typically are then taken up by the General Assembly. A four-week substantive session takes place each July, alternating between New York and Geneva. The 1998 session met in New York.

The past year saw much progress in concentrating on ECOSOC's primary role as a coordinating body, and a significant resolution on ECOSOC reform was adopted after more than a year of negotiations. The coordination segment of the 1998 session dealt with implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, during which the U.S. representative on the ECOSOC, Ambassador Betty King, delivered a statement embracing economic, social, and cultural rights as "individual rights." At the high-level segment on market access, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Jon Rosenbaum cited the openness and accessibility of the U.S. market, noting that the United States leads the world in imports from developing countries. He also drew attention to the high tariff rates in many of the least developed countries (LDCs), and stressed the U.S. commitment to providing debt relief and technical assistance to LDCs undertaking reform programs.

During discussion of the agenda item on sustainable development at the substantive session, the United States expressed serious concern about the work of the Committee on Development Planning (CDP) and disagreed with the recommendations in its report, in particular the recommendation to create a world financial organization. As a result of U.S. efforts, reform of the CDP was included in the ECOSOC reform resolution noted above. The current CDP body was disbanded in December 1998 and new members were elected. The number of CDP annual meetings was cut in half, and ECOSOC now creates the CDP work program. This provided a good example of how ECOSOC can act like a board of directors, guiding and managing its subsidiary bodies to serve the needs of its member states.

Subsidiary bodies reporting to ECOSOC include regional economic commissions and functional commissions. Among the functional commissions, in 1998 the United States held membership in the Commission for Social Development, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission on Population and Development, Commission on Sustainable Development, Commission on the Status of Women, and the Statistical Commission. Of the five regional economic commissions, the United States belongs to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Europe, and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **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 next conference will occur in Bangkok in February 2000. 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.

The 1998 session of the Trade and Development Board (TDB) focused on the causes, management, and prevention of financial crisis; trade and investment in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); and prospects for agriculture, trade, and industrialization in Africa. Delegates agreed that the world financial crisis required action at both national and international levels, but that recourse to protectionist policies would only deepen the crisis.

On the subject of Least Developed Countries, TDB member states agreed that the LDCs' improved economic performance in recent years was mainly due to their own macroeconomic policy reforms. They noted, however, that in addition to LDCs being vulnerable to exogenous shocks such as the Asian financial crisis and falling commodity prices, the pace of recent recovery was not by itself sufficient to halt LDC marginalization in world trade.

Finally, during the TDB segment on Africa, the nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development rejected a proposal backed by the Group of 77 for creation of an international panel to review debt obligations and identify portions that should be written off.

Also of note in 1998 was the November 9-12 UNCTAD "Partnership for Development" summit in Lyon, France, attended by some 2,000 representatives from both the public and private sectors. The event reflected UNCTAD's recognition that official development assistance will never approach the resources available from private investment. The Lyon summit showcased expert presentations on electronic commerce, micro-finance, investment promotion, and commodity price risk management. A senior White House advisor addressed the assembly.

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

The CSD, a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council, was established in 1993 to review the implementation of outcomes from the UN Conference on Environment and Development, especially the comprehensive set of recommendations known as Agenda 21. The CSD held its sixth session April 20–May 1, addressing freshwater

management, industry, and five cross-cutting issues (technology transfer, capacity building, science, education, and public awareness).

Three working groups produced recommendations about the following: sustainable freshwater, issues facing small island developing states, industry, and the cross-cutting issues, among others. The freshwater report encouraged governments to provide national information on strategies for resource management, protection, or development; invited the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination to identify programmatic gaps and to foster cooperative arrangements; and called on the UN Environment Program, in collaboration with others, to provide scientific and technical advice.

A lengthy segment of the session was devoted to a dialogue among members of the business sector, nongovernmental organizations, trade unions, and governments about industry and its role in sustainable development. Speakers highlighted the importance of voluntary initiatives by industry. In addition to delivering prepared remarks, participants at the high-level segment engaged in discussions broadly centered on industry, sustainable development indicators, and technology transfer. The United States focused the latter dialogue on the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism as a way to effect technology transfer.

Side events are an important feature of the CSD. The United States sponsored a panel discussion examining aspects of watershed management, a demonstration of new watershed management software, and a program on sustainable food industries.

## **Commission for Social Development**

The 36th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD) met in New York February 10-20. CSOCD considered two topics, namely, the priority theme "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons," and the review of relevant UN plans and programs of action pertaining to the situation of social groups. These topics were considered in the context of follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development held in 1995. The Commission had before it two reports from the Secretary General on promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and on options for the future review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging.

The United States joined consensus on a resolution which took note of the reports of the Secretary General and decided to adopt agreed conclusions on promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons.

The agreed conclusions contained recommendations for action at local, national, regional, and international levels in the following areas: promot-

ing social integration through responsive government, full participation in society, nondiscrimination, tolerance, equality, and social justice; enhancing social protection, reducing vulnerability, and enhancing employment opportunities for groups with specific needs; and violence, crime, and the problem of illicit drugs and substance abuse as factors of social disintegration.

The Commission held two panel meetings with invited experts and two dialogues with nongovernmental organizations on the priority theme. There was also an exchange of views with the Executive Director, Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the UN Secretariat.

### **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**

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was established in 1947. It is open to European members of the United Nations and has 55 members, including the former Central Asian and Caucasian republics of the Soviet Union, plus the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and Israel. ECE headquarters are in Geneva, where it meets annually.

In 1998, the ECE continued to make progress in implementing the Plan of Action adopted at its 1997 Commission meeting. The Plan of Action reduced the ECE's resource use by 10.5 percent in the 1998–1999 biennium, prioritized its work program, reduced by 60 percent the number of work-program elements, and restructured the number of ECE principal subsidiary bodies from 14 to 7 (plus a small coordinating unit on special tasks). In 1998, the ECE established a Group of Experts on the Program of Work as called for in the Plan. The Commission's principal subsidiary bodies also began to identify priorities for their work programs.

The ECE's terms of reference are broad. Like the other regional commissions, the ECE's principal task is the promotion of cooperation and integration among its member states. On June 25, the United States

became the first nation to sign the Agreement Concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment, and Parts. This agreement, negotiated in the ECE's Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles, will allow all the world's nations to work toward global harmonization of standards and regulations regarding vehicle safety, environmental pollution, energy, and anti-theft performance. The Agreement will enter into force when the European Union, Japan, and at least two other countries join the United States as contracting parties.

The United States has supported the Commission's increased emphasis on the economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe, within the framework of the ECE's current mandate and available resources. This focus is maintained throughout the Commission's work program. The ECE holds workshops and seminars in its areas of expertise to support the integration of economies in transition into the global economy. In 1998, member states agreed that the ECE should provide a similar focus for the countries of the Mediterranean region and seek the cooperation of the Economic Commission for Africa and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in this initiative. The Commission also strengthened cooperation on economic matters with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Commission continued to supply technical assistance to the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), a U.S. Government-conceived initiative to encourage economic and environmental cooperation in that region. The United States made an annual special contribution of \$100,000 to the ECE for SECI-related travel and administrative support. The ECE also extended similar technical assistance to the new Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Based on the experience of SECI, SPECA was established on March 26, 1998, by the five Central Asian states—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—when they signed the "Tashkent Decision."

### **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The United States belongs to the 41-member Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), established in 1948. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are among the six associate members. ECLAC's headquarters are in Santiago, Chile.

ECLAC serves as a regional think-tank on development policy, striving to take into account the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship between economic and social factors. The focus of activities in recent years has been on "...changing production patterns with social equity." Once a breeding ground for "dependency" theory and demands for a "New International Economic Order," ECLAC has moved

much closer to the economic mainstream in recent years, particularly concerning the importance of open markets and the role of the private sector in economic development. ECLAC also provides governments with economic and statistical information, and works closely with other regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Latin American Economic System. A reform effort launched in 1996 has helped to streamline the Commission's work program and eliminate inefficient intergovernmental bodies.

ECLAC is part of the Tripartite Committee (along with the Inter-American Development Bank and the OAS) which was created at the Miami Summit of the Americas in December 1995. ECLAC has provided the Free Trade Area of the Americas working groups with analytical support, technical assistance, and relevant studies as requested.

The ECLAC biennial commission meeting took place in May 1998 in Aruba. It was the first Commission session for newly appointed Executive Secretary Jose Antonio Ocampo (former Colombian Minister of Finance), who took office in January. Ocampo briefed the 1998 Commission meeting on the status of the Management Pilot Program, under which UN headquarters in New York has delegated limited financial and personnel authority to Santiago. To date, only minimal delegations of authority have been implemented. Ocampo was hopeful that the scheme will be accelerated and broadened in future years. If successful, the Pilot Program could be a model for other regional and functional commissions.

The 1998 Commission session also gave provisional approval to the proposed 2000-2001 work program based on the report of the *ad hoc* working group set up to prioritize the work program (part of the 1996 reform effort). Finally, the Commission renewed the mandate of the *ad hoc* working group for another two years, solidifying the working group's status as the key forum for member state input to the work and decisions of the Secretariat.

### **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was established in 1947 and has 51 members in an area stretching from Iran and Azerbaijan in the west to the Cook Islands in the South Pacific. ESCAP headquarters are in Bangkok.

ESCAP provides a forum for discussion of development issues, identifies problems of social and economic development, provides technical assistance and advisory services, and aids members in attracting outside assistance. It does not provide grants or loans of its own. Most work is conducted through meetings of the intergovernmental and subsidiary bodies, with an emphasis on a thematic approach. ESCAP attaches particular importance to sustainable development for developing, least developed, landlocked, and Pacific island economies.

ESCAP meets annually. The 1998 Commission discussed at length ESCAP's reform efforts with member states, drawing attention to the slow pace of reform initiated by ESCAP's Secretariat. Commission delegates drafted a letter to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) laying out their reform priorities, including strengthening project monitoring and evaluation; reduction of meetings, publications, and support costs; and implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

The letter to ECOSOC also expressed support for ESCAP's role as "team leader" for UN agencies in the Asia-Pacific region. In practice, however, other UN agencies operating in the region, such as the UN Development Program, are better funded and more active than ESCAP.

The United States participated in the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives (ACPR) of ESCAP. The ACPR is charged with reviewing the Commission's work program and overseeing further reform, restructuring, and streamlining of ESCAP. The ACPR supported the reduction of Commission meeting days from seven to six and attempted to revamp the structure of Commission meetings to facilitate more interactive and focused discussion and reduce the reading of prepared statements by delegates.

## **Human Rights**

The United States continued its strong participation in UN human rights fora throughout 1998. The UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) and the UN General Assembly provided opportunities for the United States to highlight its concern about continued violations of human rights in a number of countries. In 1998, the UNCHR adopted 84 resolutions and 12 decisions on human rights. The General Assembly adopted more than 40 human rights resolutions.

Resolutions addressing specific countries emphasized to their governments that the international community is committed to advancing human rights. Thematic resolutions allowed the United States to enunciate policy goals regarding support for civil and political rights; the elimination of discrimination based on race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, or gender; and support for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, special rapporteurs, and technical assistance.

The UNCHR, which met in Geneva March 16-April 24, is the principal organ in the United Nations for achieving the Charter purpose of promoting respect for human rights. It is composed of 53 members, including the United States, elected for three-year terms. Ambassador Nancy H. Rubin led the U.S. Delegation to the 54th session of the Commission.

The 54th session was the fifth regular session following the creation of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights. The United States saw some success from its efforts to rationalize the Commission's agenda, by

grouping resolutions on similar topics and biennializing certain thematic resolutions. The United States hopes that such reforms may make future meetings shorter and more efficient.

The year 1998 marked the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United States joined consensus on a resolution reaffirming member states' commitment to the principle of universality and on a draft declaration on the rights of human rights defenders around the world.

The United States drafted and achieved Commission support for a resolution detailing human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia, adopted by a vote of 41 (U.S.) to 0, with 12 abstentions. After calling for votes on a number of paragraphs, Russia called for a vote on the entire resolution, then announced it would abstain. The Commission also approved a Chair's statement on Kosovo. The United States drafted a resolution condemning violations of human rights in Sudan, adopted by a vote of 31 (U.S.) to 6, with 16 abstentions. The Commission adopted resolutions concerning the human rights situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, and Rwanda. The United States worked closely with like-minded delegations to adopt resolutions condemning human rights violations in Afghanistan, Burma, Burundi, Iran, and Iraq, as well as a resolution noting human rights advances in Haiti.

The United States introduced, but failed to achieve Commission support for, a resolution detailing human rights violations in Cuba, which was defeated by a vote of 16 (U.S.) to 19, with 18 abstentions. Cosponsors included the European Union nations, Canada, and Argentina, but last minute changes in votes, primarily by key Latin American and African delegations, tipped the vote against the U.S.-led position.

The 1998 substantive session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) concluded its four-week session in New York on July 31. With regard to the UNCHR Report, ECOSOC adopted all 45 draft resolutions and decisions referred to it. The Secretariat certified that none of the resolutions had program budgetary implications.

A spirit of consensus marked the human rights portion of the 1998 session. Six resolutions that had been voted on at the UNCHR were adopted by ECOSOC without a vote. Interventions and explanations of votes or positions were fewer in 1998.

The UN Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held its 50th session in Geneva, August 3-28. Independent expert David Weissbrodt participated for the United States, in his third year on the Subcommission. The Subcommission considered cases filed by individuals and nongovernmental organizations against countries alleged to display consistent patterns of gross violations of human rights. In addition to confidential country proceedings, the Subcommission produced resolutions on the situations of human rights in Belarus, North

Korea, and Mexico, as well as a resolution supporting human rights defenders.

During the 53rd UN General Assembly, the United States played a leading role in obtaining passage of updated resolutions addressing country-specific situations. High points of the 53rd General Assembly were the U.S.-sponsored resolutions on the situations of human rights in the former Yugoslavia in general (Resolution 53/163), adopted by a vote of 141 (U.S.) to 0, with 21 abstentions; and in Kosovo in particular (Resolution 53/164), adopted by a vote of 122 (U.S.) to 3, with 34 abstentions. The United States cosponsored several resolutions on the human rights situations in Burma, Cambodia, Haiti, Iran, and Rwanda.

The United States cosponsored a number of thematic human rights resolutions, including those on strengthening the rule of law, human rights education, regional human rights arrangements, human rights defenders, involuntary disappearances, the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, and the rights of minorities. The United States continued efforts to biennialize resolutions in the interest of greater efficiency.

## **Status of Women**

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

The 42nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) met in New York, March 2-13. Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan, the U.S. Representative to the CSW, led the U.S. delegation.

The main agenda items 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; four critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action—human rights of women, violence against women, women and armed conflict, and the girl child; and the working group on communications.

The CSW took action on ten resolutions and one decision. All but one were adopted by consensus.

The United States introduced a resolution entitled “Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan,” which gathered 50 cosponsors and was adopted by consensus. In introducing the draft resolution, the United States noted, “With this year’s human rights focus, the Commission would be remiss if it ignored the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.” The resolution condemns the continuing violations of the human rights of women and girls in all areas of Afghanistan; calls upon all parties in 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 gender concerns and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and human rights; and welcomes

the establishment of the *ad hoc* Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender in Afghanistan under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

The United States cosponsored three resolutions: the Zambian resolution on “Human rights and land rights discrimination,” which urges states to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance; the Dominican Republic resolution on “Older women and support systems: gender and caregiving,” which contains recommendations related to research and data collection, economic security, education and empowerment, and well-being of caregivers; and the Canadian resolution on the “Mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, including the status of women in the Secretariat,” which stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the formulation and implementation of operational activities for development of the UN system and into the UN Development Assistance Framework.

The United States called for a vote on the Group of 77 (developing countries) resolution entitled “Palestinian women,” because the United States believed it prejudices final status issues which the parties have agreed to negotiate directly. It was adopted by a vote of 34 to 1 (U.S.), with 5 abstentions.

At the 39th (1995) session, the CSW 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 42nd session. At the end of the two-week session, the CSW adopted the draft report of the working group, which included the revised draft optional protocol. Several issues remained bracketed (unresolved) in the revised draft optional protocol, including the issue of standing (who can file a communication); admissibility (criteria that must be met for the communication to be considered); inquiry procedure (a procedure that would allow the Committee that oversees the Convention to conduct an inquiry into violations of the Convention); and reservations (whether a state party can take a reservation to any part of the Optional Protocol).

In Resolution 1983/27, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) reaffirmed the CSW’s mandate to consider confidential and nonconfidential 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 which 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 11. It expressed deep concern regarding the systematic and grave violation of women's human rights, including violations of women's and girls' rights to security, to life and liberty, to freedom of movement, to freedom of thought and expression, and to the right to assemble.

ECOSOC decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1998 would be devoted to the theme "Advancement of Women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development." Consideration of this matter followed the in-depth review of gender mainstreaming by the Council in 1997 and the adoption of its Agreed Conclusions 1997/2 (found in A/52/3).

Also during the ECOSOC session, Austria chaired two informal meetings of "Friends of INSTRAW" (UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) in an effort to rescue INSTRAW from its financial shortfall. The United States joined consensus in adopting a resolution which called for an evaluation of INSTRAW.

ECOSOC also adopted the CSW report 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 40 to 1 (U.S.), with 2 abstentions.

In the UN General Assembly five resolutions were under agenda items "Advancement of Women" and "Implementation of the Outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women." The United States cosponsored the resolutions on "Traffic in women and girls" (53/116), which calls on governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls, to condemn and penalize all offenders, and to ensure that victims are not penalized; "Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls" (53/117), which calls upon states to develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, including female genital mutilation; and "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat" (53/119), which strongly urges member states to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution.

## **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 seventh session in Vienna, Austria, April 21-30.

The seventh session addressed the need for a transnational organized crime convention. It officially endorsed the concept of such a convention, established an *ad hoc* committee for that purpose, and named an experienced Italian diplomat, Ambassador Luigi Lauriola, as the committee chair. All of these actions gained unanimous support from the General Assembly in October. Delegates also conducted informal negotiations on the convention while in Vienna, and continued in Buenos Aires in August. Several smaller meetings on the convention, designated as “Friends of the Chair” meetings, were also held during 1998.

For the first time, the United States cosponsored a resolution calling for a binding international instrument to control the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their components and parts, and ammunition. It was agreed that this instrument would be a protocol to the organized crime convention. Other protocols agreed upon will address migrant trafficking and trafficking in women and children.

The Commission supported the plan of Pino Arlacchi, Director General of the UN Offices at Vienna, to have the Center for International Crime Prevention (CICP) make transnational organized crime a priority, but also favored continuing activities in the traditional areas of setting criminal justice and crime prevention standards and norms. There was strong support for CICP to expand and strengthen its technical support projects. Among the resolutions adopted were proposals to update the Commission’s manual on practical measures against corruption and the UN Model Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance.

The Commission responded to calls for efficiencies when it decided to merge the Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders with the Ninth Commission meeting in April 2000.

In fiscal year 1998, the United States contributed \$511,000 to the Crime Commission to fund the work on the organized crime convention, a project on trafficking in women in the Philippines, a Pacific Rim money laundering conference, and an organized crime survey.

## **Drug Abuse Control**

The UN International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the International Narcotics Control Board, based in Vienna, Austria, are the primary UN drug control organizations. Both are key organizations supporting U.S. Government drug control objectives.

The highlight of 1998 was the “20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly to Counter Together the World Drug Problem” (UNGASS), held June 8-10 in New York. The UNGASS attracted the participation of 150 countries and 32 heads of state. Reflecting the high priority the United States gives to the drug issue, President Clinton, Secretary of State

Albright, and other senior U.S officials attended the UNGASS. President Clinton gave an address on the opening day, highlighting the need for shared responsibility in combating the global drug problem and the need for multilateral cooperation.

The UNGASS marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the 1988 UN Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The international community was reenergized in its commitment against drugs with the adoption of the forward-looking political declaration, and in the concrete actions to implement the UN drug control conventions. The UNGASS agreed on achieving goals relating to eradication of drug crops and money laundering, demand reduction, judicial cooperation, and control of precursors and amphetamine-type stimulants.

In preparation for the UNGASS, U.S. representatives participated actively through the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), which acted as the preparatory committee. The CND met formally in March 1998, following three informal open-ended intersessional meetings in Vienna in 1997. It addressed specific issues related to supply and demand reduction and developed the political declaration ultimately adopted in New York at the UNGASS.

The United Nations is essential to U.S. objectives in countering the illicit drug trade. Three 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 international framework to counter drugs, 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 the production and trafficking of precursor chemicals used in the production of illicit drugs.

Pino Arlacchi of Italy was appointed by the Secretary General to the post of Executive Director of the UNDCP in September 1997. Arlacchi created an Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in order to address the interrelated issues of drug control, crime prevention, and terrorism. In 1998, the United States supported Arlacchi's reforms in management and administration, including decentralization of responsibility and resources to field offices, cutting bureaucracy, and streamlining program activities.

International cooperation was enhanced on issues such as chemical control, money laundering, and maritime cooperation in 1998. 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 con-

tinued its partnerships in 1998 with other UN agencies in promoting drug control.

UNDCP in 1998 provided drug control assistance to about 65 countries threatened by illicit production, trafficking, and abuse. As a voluntarily funded program with support from the UN regular budget, UNDCP operated with a total budget of \$84.5 million in 1998. The biennial 1998-1999 voluntary budget for the UNDCP was increased by the CND by 30 percent overall due to the anticipated increase in voluntary contributions. With the additional resources, programming was increased on important priorities in alternative development and eradication.

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 renewed emphasis on supporting elimination of illicit cultivation of opium and coca in 1998. The U.S. contribution of \$4.034 million in 1998, provided by the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Matters, supported a number of UNDCP programs. 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 buttress the opium elimination effort and focus on 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 programs in the Western Hemisphere will complement 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 the expertise and experience of NGOs in such fields as human rights, social development, humanitarian assistance, and environmental protection. NGOs now 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, and 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

*United States Participation in the United Nations - 1998*

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 ECOSOC. The Committee holds annual meetings to consider NGO applications and to discuss other matters relating to NGO participation. The Committee approved 238 NGO applications for consultative status during its 1998 sessions. By the end of 1998, approximately 1,600 NGOs had received ECOSOC consultative status.