

## Economic and Social Affairs

### Economic and Development Issues

#### Development Bodies and Programs

##### UN Development Program (UNDP)

Headquartered in New York, the UN Development Program (UNDP) is the leading development agency of the United Nations, with a presence in 136 countries. The United States is a member of its 36-state governing body, the Executive Board. Mark Malloch Brown was appointed UNDP Administrator by the UN Secretary-General in 1999. He is in his second term.

The United States supported a 2003 Executive Board decision that adopted the following five “core goals” for UNDP for the next four years: (1) reducing human poverty; (2) fostering democratic governance; (3) managing energy and the environment for sustainable development; (4) supporting crisis prevention and recovery; and (5) responding to HIV/AIDS. These goals form the key components of UNDP’s mandate and operations, and they are consistent with U.S. foreign policy goals.

The United States has also worked with UNDP to achieve key objectives in post-conflict transition and peace building in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Liberia. Since 2001, UNDP has cooperated with the United States in Afghanistan’s reconstruction. In addition to channeling donor funding through the Afghan government for reconstruction and development, UNDP worked with other UN agencies to help coordinate the Afghan government’s Emergency Loya Jirga Commission, Constitutional Commission, Civil Service Commission, and Human Rights Commission. UNDP has played a key role in supporting the voter registration process.

In 2003, UNDP played an important role in the Madrid Conference for Iraq reconstruction through the administration of a reconstruction trust fund with the World Bank through which donors can channel their assistance. UNDP also cooperated with the United States and other donors in dealing with the Liberia crisis in 2003. UNDP played a key role in making preparations for the Liberia Donors Conference, which took place in early 2004.

UNDP is the chair of the UN Development Group, which brings together more than 25 UN agencies to improve the effectiveness of UN development activities at the country level. UNDP also manages the UN’s Resident Coordinator system. The Resident Coordinator is the designated representative of the Secretary-General in a country, who is responsible for coordination of activities of all UN agencies in that country.

In late 2003, UNDP organized the UN’s Commission on the Private Sector and Development, which was a positive step in international recognition of the key role of the private sector in development. In 2003, the

United States raised with UNDP management several groundless accusations made in UNDP publications against the United States, particularly those attacking U.S. post-9/11 security measures and Iraq war conduct.

UNDP obtains its funding through voluntary contributions. The U.S. was a top contributor to UNDP in 2003, giving over \$140 million.

UNDP employed about 4,655 staff in 2003, of whom approximately 3,849 served in the field. U.S. citizens occupied 113 of 974 professional positions; 30 of them were in senior positions.

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

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent forum for discussions on trade and development issues, which functions through a variety of intergovernmental groups. These include its governing body, the Trade and Development Board, and Commissions on Trade, Investment, and Enterprise. Based in Geneva, UNCTAD has 190 member states. The current Secretary-General, Rubens Ricupero (Brazil), began his tenure in 1995 and is scheduled to leave that post in 2004.

In 2003, UNCTAD held expert meetings on commodities, international standards of accounting and reporting, international commercial law, and maritime transport. In addition, it began preparations for UNCTAD XI, the latest in a series of ministerial meetings that UNCTAD has held every four years since 1964. Scheduled for 2004, UNCTAD XI's theme will be "coherence," both between national development strategies and the international economic environment and among international trade, finance, and development policies.

The United States has been an active participant in UNCTAD since its founding. The United States believes free trade is a vital avenue for development and has strongly encouraged UNCTAD's work on trade and investment facilitation. It has also worked to bring greater focus and more modern management to UNCTAD in line with the general reform initiatives advocated by the UN's Secretary-General. Following a review of UNCTAD programs during 2002, several were curtailed or spun off for independent operations. These included UNCTAD's Trade Points program, which was established as an independent, non-profit organization and UNCTAD's technical assistance in port operations, which had been overtaken by the growth of private port operations in the developing world. The United States also worked closely with the European Union and other member states to reduce the number and length of inter-governmental meetings and the number of negotiated documents, while increasing the number of expert meetings on issues of practical importance to member states.

The United States joined other member states in urging UNCTAD to increase its technical assistance in areas that can help ensure that developing countries benefit from processes of globalization. These areas included investment promotion, trade and transport facilitation, and customs reform. UNCTAD is the source for the single most widely used automated customs data program in the developing world. Its Debt Information Management

System has also helped many developing states keep track of commercial and official debt obligations.

Also significant are UNCTAD's investment policy reviews, which assess the progress individual developing countries have made in adopting market-based reforms and in establishing a legal and regulatory framework that is attractive to investors. Developing countries and investors alike have found these reviews to be valuable tools.

UNCTAD's biennial budget is funded from the UN regular budget. In 2003 the United States paid \$9.35 million of UNCTAD's \$42.5 million budget. UNCTAD's technical assistance activities (approximately \$25 million in 2003) are funded separately through trust fund arrangements established by individual donors (primarily European countries). The United States did not contribute to any of these trust fund arrangements in 2003.

UNCTAD had 420 staff in 2003, of whom 20 were U.S. citizens.

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

The Economic and Social Council established the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 1992 as a functional commission to follow up implementation of the Rio Earth Summit's goals. Based at UN headquarters in New York, it is composed of 53 UN or UN agency members, elected to three-year terms. During its first decade, the CSD met formally four weeks annually to consider specific sustainable development issues and promote implementation of internationally agreed development goals. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, governments called for specific reforms of the CSD, including limiting negotiations in the sessions of the commission to every two years, limiting the number of themes addressed at each session, and having the CSD serve as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices. In this manner, the CSD directly supports one of the four strategic objectives of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, advancing sustainable development and global interests.

The United States has been a member since the Commission's inception. Following the WSSD, the United States worked actively to advance ideas for how the CSD could implement its reforms to serve as a stronger catalyst for action. (See <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/sus/csd/2003> for a series of discussion papers the United States produced in early 2003 regarding the future of the CSD.) At the CSD's 11th session (April–May 2003), the United States worked closely with other CSD members to develop a multi-year program of work that would address a series of “thematic clusters” and cross-cutting issues in two-year “implementation cycles.” The first cycle (2004–2005) will be focused on water, sanitation, and human settlement issues. Each two-year cycle includes a non-negotiating “review year” to assess the state of implementation and a venue to focus on sustainable development partnerships and capacity-building activities. The second half of each cycle will be a

“policy year” to discuss policy options and possible actions to overcome obstacles in the implementation process identified during the review year.

In December 2003, the UN General Assembly endorsed the CSD’s multi-year work program by adopting a resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Program for Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the outcome of the WSSD (i.e., the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation). This resolution called on governments, international organizations, and major groups to ensure effective implementation and follow-up to the commitments adopted at the WSSD. The United States joined consensus on this resolution. The General Assembly also approved several other resolutions on sustainable development, including resolutions on renewable energy, drought and desertification, biological diversity, sustainable development of Small Island developing states, natural disasters, climate change, and sustainable development in mountain regions.

#### **UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**

The UN General Assembly created the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in 1946 to meet the emergency needs of children after World War II. UNICEF continues to provide emergency assistance for children and families affected by natural disasters and other crises in countries such as Iraq, Liberia, Sudan, and Afghanistan. UNICEF has also become involved in long-term assistance efforts targeting the health and development of children. UNICEF is active in 162 countries, with programs addressing children’s health, sanitation, nutrition, basic education, and protection needs, wherever possible through low-cost interventions at the family and community levels.

In 2003, approximately one third of UNICEF’s budget went to humanitarian assistance in 55 countries torn by natural or human-made disasters. In humanitarian crises, UNICEF normally takes the lead in infant and maternal health care, supplemental nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and protection issues. In acting as the global champion for children, UNICEF confronts a broad variety of issues, including HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation amid armed conflict, gang activity, poor nutrition, and gender discrimination. UNICEF’s program budget is allocated to country programs according to three criteria: under-five mortality rate, income level (GNP per capita), and the size of the population under 18.

Carol Bellamy, a U.S. citizen, is UNICEF’s Executive Director. She was appointed in 1995 and is in her second term. The United States has been a member of UNICEF’s Executive Board, comprised of 36 members serving three-year terms, since the Fund’s inception. In 2003, the United States began another term running until 2006.

In December 2001, the Executive Board approved the Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for 2002–2005, providing a strategic framework for UNICEF programs. It outlined the following five organizational priorities: “immunization plus”; integrated early childhood development; girls’ education; fighting HIV/AIDS; and protection of children from violence,

exploitation, abuse, and discrimination. In 2003, the MTSP continued to guide country programming and reporting, and was further defined as a framework for programming. The United States worked actively to ensure that member states would be an integral part of a mid-term review of the MTSP that will occur in 2004.

Among UNICEF's achievements in 2003 was the successful execution of the largest immunization campaign held to date in sub-Saharan Africa, protecting 13 million Kenyan children from measles. In Iraq, UNICEF staff vaccinated 4 million children against polio before the conflict, and was engaged immediately after the conflict, conducting massive immunization campaigns, providing pre-positioned nutritional supplements, and delivering school supplies to help normalize the lives of Iraq's 12 million children. In Liberia, UNICEF provided 2,456 "school-in-a-box" kits with supplies for 333,920 children and provided an orientation for 7,200 teachers. It also vaccinated more than 730,000 children against measles and helped rebuild the necessary health infrastructure to keep medicine cold preventing spoilage. In Afghanistan, UNICEF expanded education programs, helping to provide learning opportunities for 4.2 million children, including more than 1 million girls. UNICEF trained 35,000 teachers in teaching methods and Mine Risk Education, and constructed or renovated 150 schools. Additionally, it immunized 6 million Afghan children against polio and measles, and provided 5 million children with Vitamin A supplements. UNICEF assisted some 61 countries in developing action plans to assist children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and partnered with the World Bank to produce guidelines for caring for small children afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF amended its funding structure in 2003. The United States was instrumental in crafting a resolution adopted by the UNICEF Executive Board in June 2003 that created a new framework for allotting costs between "regular" non-earmarked contributions and "other" earmarked contributions. The system compensates for a trend among donors to increasingly provide "earmarked" contributions rather than unrestricted core contributions. Though earmarked contributions are essential, it is the non-earmarked or "core" funding that provides UNICEF and other funds and programs with the basic infrastructure and capability to conduct both the flexible, rapid-response programming and long-term work that define its success in both the humanitarian and development fields. The new system creates a sliding scale of assessments based on factors such as size of the contribution, the nature of payment, and reporting requirements. The system aims to provide a straightforward, transparent way to provide incentives for donations that fund core UNICEF activities and cost less for UNICEF to administer.

In 2003, the United States worked on institutional improvements and urged UNICEF to focus on core child survival programs, to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation capabilities, and to promote the family. The United States urged that, in support of child survival, traditional programs such as water, sanitation, health, and education be sustained and improved with new, proven low-cost interventions. UNICEF responded by convening a group of

development partners, including USAID. The resulting “Child Survival Partnership” alliance among USAID, UNICEF, and other international agencies will help reinvigorate international efforts to restore investments in basic health infrastructure in the developing world and to capitalize on new opportunities for saving children.

The United States also urged UNICEF to examine its monitoring and evaluation systems in 2003, and U.S. interest in this topic contributed to strengthening the relevant office within UNICEF. USAID engaged UNICEF monitoring and evaluation staff directly by meeting with Washington-based experts and providing a detailed analysis of a new UNICEF monitoring program. Within the Executive Board, the United States gathered support for additional UNICEF reporting on developments in this area, resulting in considerable interest in the topic by both UNICEF and other member states.

In 2003, the Department of State and Department of Health and Human Services forcefully advocated for UNICEF to take a leadership role in promoting the family, and to utilize the opportunity of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2004) to advocate for family-based programs for children.

In 2003, the UNICEF budget totaled \$1.4 billion. The United States, which is the largest single donor, contributed \$119 million to non-earmarked regular resources in 2003. The United States provided an additional \$168 million in earmarked contributions from both HHS and USAID for programs in areas of polio, malaria, and other child survival interventions.

UNICEF had 8,066 employees in 2003. Of 1,813 professional posts, 228 were filled by Americans.

#### **UN-HABITAT**

The UN General Assembly converted the 58-member UN Center on Human Settlements to a full program of the General Assembly, the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) in December 2001. UN-HABITAT’s work focuses on the development of sustainable human settlements with access to basic services, such as water and sanitation. UN-HABITAT is also the UN focal point for efforts to achieve the Millennium Declaration goal of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The creation of the UN-HABITAT program marked a significant achievement in the U.S. reform agenda. After the Center’s poor fiscal and personnel management in the mid-1990s, the United States had suspended voluntary contributions in 1996. Following the complete restructuring of the organization by new management, the United States supported the conferral of program status and resumed modest voluntary contributions.

UN-HABITAT is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, and is led by Executive Director Dr. Anna Tibaijuka (Tanzania), who was elected by the General Assembly for a four-year term in July 2002 after having served since September 2000 as Director of the Center on Human Settlements. UN-HABITAT’s Governing Council meets every two years, most recently in May 2003. States are elected to the Governing Council through regional groups for

four-year terms. The United States was re-elected in 2002 for another term by the UN Economic and Social Council.

UN-HABITAT's activities in 2003 were closely aligned with U.S. foreign policy objectives pertaining to economic freedom, good governance, democracy building (through decentralization of power to local authorities), gender equality, and the mobilization of domestic resources. The United States worked to clarify UN-HABITAT's role as a catalyst that advances work on human settlements through normative (research and data collection), capacity-building, and operational (pilot project) activities. Overall, the United States believes UN-HABITAT improved its focus on these activities, in which it has a comparative advantage. However, UN-HABITAT is still in the process of consolidating many small programs, trust funds, and other mechanisms into a coherent whole.

At the May 2003 Governing Council meeting, the United States participated actively in the negotiation of a strategic framework that would define the scope of UN-HABITAT in the areas of shelter and sustainable human settlements; monitor the Millennium Declaration goal of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020; foster regional and technical cooperation; and finance human settlements. The United States worked closely with the Governing Council to prevent overlap among the functions of UN-HABITAT, the World Bank, and other multilateral institutions.

Additionally, the United States facilitated an initiative to establish a Special Human Settlements Program for the Palestinian People, which received approval from both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The United States was the first contributor to the \$5 million technical assistance program.

In Iraq, UN-HABITAT had managed programs for internally-displaced persons under the Settlement Rehabilitation Program. UN-HABITAT renegotiated contracts and successfully transferred control of programs worth \$600 million to the Coalition Provisional Authority. Follow-on activities are underway, guided by the Iraq High-Level Advisory Panel, a group of senior Iraqi officials and professionals in the human settlements field. The United States also coordinated a smooth transition of the UN's Oil-For-Food program to the Coalition Provisional Authority.

UN-HABITAT provides advice to local governments through policy papers on best practices and legislative reforms and the "good urban governance index," which enables cities to assess and monitor progress on specific indicators of good governance. UN-HABITAT developed good urban governance toolkits to support transparency in local government and participatory urban decision-making and budgeting. The campaign on urban governance also promotes the involvement of women in decision-making at all levels.

UN-HABITAT provided capacity building/technical assistance for urban planning and slum upgrading in 87 countries, including post-conflict reconstruction programs in Afghanistan, East Timor, Kosovo, Liberia, and Sudan, as well as Israeli-occupied territory.

Additionally, UN-HABITAT executed technical cooperation projects (construction work) worth \$118 million in Iraq and elsewhere on behalf of other UN agencies and donor countries.

In 2003, funding for UN-HABITAT's work came from voluntary contributions to its core programs (\$40.5 million) and UN regular budget funds (\$6.4 million). The United States contributed \$750,000 in non-earmarked funds to the core UN-HABITAT budget and \$500,000 to UN-HABITAT's Palestinian technical assistance program.

UN-HABITAT employed 122 professional staff at its headquarters and in nine regional and liaison offices in 2003; six were U.S. citizens.

## **Environment**

### **UN Environment Program (UNEP)**

The UN Environment Program (UNEP), founded in 1972, is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, and has six regional offices in Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia. Its Governing Council consists of 58 member states, including the United States. The UN General Assembly elects members from different regional groupings for four-year terms. UNEP's Executive Director Klaus Toepfer (Germany) was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2002 after being re-nominated for that position by the UN Secretary-General.

UNEP addresses environmental problems that transcend borders and potentially affect the health and prosperity of U.S. citizens. Active involvement in UNEP helps the United States promote sustainable development and protect the environment by combating global environmental degradation. UNEP also contributes to regional stability through work in areas affected by conflict.

The United States was instrumental in UNEP's development of a constructive decision on marine safety and the environment in light of the *Prestige* oil spill of November 2002. The United States developed with UNEP a facilitative, non-regulatory approach to raise awareness and provide training on practical approaches to address mercury pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services worked with UNEP in the development of the program.

The United States successfully negotiated a compromise at the February 2003 Governing Council/Global Environmental Ministerial Forum on the implementation of UNEP's voluntary indicative scale of contributions that allows UNEP to continue with and publish the results of this pilot initiative, without having the U.S. contribution level compared to an arbitrary figure chosen by UNEP. The United States is opposed to the concept of suggested scales of contributions for organizations funded by voluntary donations.

The United States strongly supports the valuable work done in UNEP core programs, such as early warning and assessment of environmental threats,

the regional seas program, capacity building for domestic environmental governance in developing countries, and the global program of action to combat land-based sources of marine pollution. The United States values UNEP's monitoring, assessing, and publicizing of emerging environmental trends. The United States led successful efforts to conduct critical budgetary and programmatic reviews in the UNEP Governing Council.

The United States worked with UNEP and other governments to strengthen linkages between UNEP and scientific institutions, and is assisting in capacity building for scientific academies in developing nations. UNEP has joined the United States as a major partner in the "White Water to Blue Water" partnership focusing on integrated watershed management, which Secretary of State Colin Powell launched in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. UNEP coordinates and facilitates the participation by Caribbean governments and provides technical and program assistance to implement the partnership.

In addition, the United States cooperates closely with UNEP on the following issues:

- Depleted Uranium Rounds: UNEP's Post Conflict Assessment Unit completed analyses of the effects of depleted uranium projectiles in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. An American expert participated in the delegations. As in the 2002 report on Serbia and Montenegro, the 2003 reports concluded that U.S. use of depleted uranium munitions did not cause long-term environmental damage.
- Iraq: UNEP, working closely with the United States, hosted a successful roundtable on Iraqi environmental issues for the Iraqi Environment Minister to interact with governments, international agencies, and nongovernmental organizations in Geneva in November 2003. UNEP's Post Conflict Assessment Unit completed a Desk Study on the Environment in Iraq in March and a Progress Report in October. The findings of this report on depleted uranium also concluded that U.S. use of depleted uranium munitions did not cause long-term environmental damage.
- Afghanistan: The United States and UNEP partnered to obtain funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank Group for the Afghan Conservation Corps. This group helps address the many environmental problems in that country and contributes to building Afghan civil society.
- Africa: The United States has worked closely with UNEP to provide NASA satellite data and training to African governments, which is part of an overall U.S. development commitment made to African countries. In November, UNEP sponsored a conference in Dakar on the use of geographic information system technologies in resource development and land-use decisions. In addition to providing data and expertise, the United States sponsored a pre-meeting on the U.S. data contribution and its availability.

The United States and UNEP jointly hosted a conference on technical, scientific policy, and investment issues of geothermal energy in Nairobi. The conference included presentations by Kenya's Minister of Energy and U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Johnnie Carson, as well as officials from the U.S. Geological Survey, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, and government officials from the region. State Department monetary contributions to the conference facilitated the participation and travel to Nairobi of more than 45 African government and non-government officials from more than ten African countries. One of the outcomes was the development of a UNEP GEF project designed to facilitate African Rift Valley geothermal energy development. This would contribute to regional development and environmental protection by providing a substitute energy source for firewood, and at the same time provide market access to U.S. energy equipment suppliers, who are leaders in that technology.

The United States made a voluntary contribution of \$10.5 million to UNEP's total budget of \$116 million in 2003. Twenty-nine U.S. citizens worked at UNEP, out of a total of 456 employees.

#### **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force in March 1994. There are currently 188 parties to the UNFCCC. The United States ratified the convention in 1992. The UNFCCC promotes stabilization of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. The Kyoto Protocol, finalized by UNFCCC members in December 1997, has not entered into force. This protocol would require developed nations to reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2 percent below 1990 levels during the period 2008–2012 (6 percent below 1990 levels for the United States). However, because the Kyoto Protocol exempts developing countries, including some of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases, from binding emission targets, and because of the harm it would cause to the U.S. economy, President Bush announced in March 2001 that the United States would not ratify the treaty. This decision is consistent with the recommendation of Senate Resolution 98, approved in July 1997 by a vote of 95 to 0.

The United States works closely with a number of countries both multilaterally and bilaterally on climate change issues. The FCCC's Ninth Conference of the Parties (COP-9) held in Milan, Italy, in December, provided an opportunity for high-level dialogue on technology, adaptation and mitigation, and the potential linkages between climate change and sustainable development. The United States highlighted its activities to promote cooperation and progress on climate change, science, and technology. Continued U.S. participation in and support for the FCCC helps advance U.S. approaches to climate change issues.

The United States contributed \$2.9 million to the FCCC in 2003. Of the UNFCCC's 75 professional staff, six are U.S. citizens.

### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 as a joint effort of the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Program. The IPCC conducts periodic assessments of studies on the science of climate change, its potential impacts, and ways countries adapt and seek to mitigate climate change. In 2003, the IPCC engaged in organizing its comprehensive Fourth Assessment Report, which will be developed by several hundred experts over the next four years.

Continued U.S. participation and support for the IPCC is designed to ensure that international actions to address climate change are informed by up-to-date, peer-reviewed scientific and technological information.

In 2003, the United States contributed \$3 million to the IPCC. A U.S. citizen chairs the IPCC's Working Group I on science.

### **Population**

#### **UN Population Fund (UNFPA)**

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) provides funding for population and reproductive health programs in over 140 countries. UNFPA works with governments and nongovernmental organizations to help women, men, and young people plan their families, reduce mother and child mortality, avoid sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and combat violence against women. UNFPA provides assistance in the framework of three- to five-year country plans, which are developed jointly with the recipient country and approved by the Executive Board.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid (Saudi Arabia), the Executive Director of UNFPA, was appointed in 2001 by the UN Secretary-General. The United States is a member of UNFPA's Executive Board and participates actively in the decision-making processes to safeguard its interests. In 2003, the Executive Board approved 22 country programs and one sub-regional program, and reviewed 11 preliminary draft country plans.

Under current statutory requirements, the United States did not provide funding to UNFPA in 2003. The Foreign Operations Appropriations Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-115) stipulates that, "none of the funds available in this Act ... may be made available to any organization or program which ... supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization." As required by law, Secretary Powell determined that no U.S. funds could be provided to UNFPA in 2002.

In 2002, the Secretary of State determined that China's coercive birth limitation laws and practices amounted to a "program of coercive abortion." The Secretary also found that UNFPA's "support and involvement in China's population-planning activities allowed the Chinese government to implement more effectively its program of coercive abortions."

In 2003, the State Department determined that there was not sufficient change in China's policies or the UNFPA program in China to warrant funding.

### **UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD)**

The UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD) advises the UN Economic and Social Council on population changes, including migration, and their effects on economic and social conditions. It is also charged by the General Assembly to monitor, review, and assess implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994.

The CPD held its 36th session in New York March 31–April 4, 2003. The central theme of the session was population, education, and development. The United States emphasized the importance of achieving gender equality in education and reported on its bilateral assistance to improve educational opportunity. The United States joined consensus on a resolution noting the importance of education for achieving population and development goals, urging the Secretariat to continue its research on the way education influences health, reproductive health, population indicators, and gender equality. The resolution also called on the UN Population Fund to accelerate implementation of the Program of Action. The United States made an Explanation of Position emphasizing that the United States did not interpret any language in the resolution or any of the documents it cited as promoting abortion.

### **Regional Economic Commissions**

The UN regional economic commissions include the Economic Commission for Africa, 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. These groups 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, of which the United States pays 22 percent. Many of their activities are financed by extra-budgetary grants from bilateral and multilateral donors. The United States is a member of ECE, ECLAC, and ESCAP. U.S. participation in regional commissions advances and safeguards U.S. foreign policy and commercial interests in these regions.

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

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was established in 1947 to encourage economic cooperation within Europe and between Europe and other countries with close trade and business ties. At the end of December 2003, ECE membership consisted of 55 member nations, including the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Israel, and the Central Asian and Caucasian states of the former Soviet Union. Executive Secretary Brigita Schmognerova (Slovak Republic) was appointed by the UN Secretary-General in 2002.

The ECE is traditionally a standards-setting and coordination body in many technical fields, such as energy, environment, vehicle construction, road

safety, timber and agricultural produce, border crossing, and statistical collection. Many ECE standards are adopted around the world. Many U.S. government agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, and Transportation, regularly participate in working groups and chair committees.

At the ECE's annual session on March 4–6 at its headquarters in Geneva, delegates agreed on the need for greater transparency and oversight within ECE, formalized partnerships with other organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and appropriate level of follow-up to UN international conferences, such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Summit on the Information Society.

The ECE is funded from the UN regular budget. In 2003 it was funded at approximately \$23.5 million, with the U.S. assessment at about \$5 million.

Out of a total Secretariat staff of about 200 at ECE headquarters, Americans held 10 positions, seven of which were at the professional level. These levels have not changed since 2002.

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

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was established in 1948 and has 41 member states. The United States is a full member. ECLAC also has seven associate members, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. The Commission is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, with two subregional offices for Mexico and for the Caribbean. It also has offices in Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Washington, D.C. Executive Secretary Jose Antonio Ocampo (Colombia) had headed the organization since January 1998, but was replaced by Jose Luis Machinea (Argentina) in December 2003.

ECLAC's mission is to improve coordination and cooperation among member states and international entities in an effort to advance economic and social development in the region. Although it previously advocated closed markets and state-run economies, ECLAC has come to recognize some of the benefits of trade liberalization and privatization.

ECLAC has a high profile in Latin America, though not in the United States. ECLAC seminars in 2003 covered “social capital, a tool to overcome poverty”; “institutional requirements for market-led development”; “fiscal policy”; “impact of gender on pension reform”; “global environmental fund”; “managing volatility, financial globalization, and growth in emerging economies”; “Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development environmental performance reviews”; “financing for sustainable development”; and “experience of the Euro: building an economic and monetary union.” Regional preparatory meetings for UN conferences included the World Summit on the Information Society, Landlocked Least Developed Countries, and Aging.

ECLAC received funding of \$40.6 million through the UN regular budget in 2003, of which \$8 million came from the U.S. assessment.

Out of 195 professional staff at the ECLAC Secretariat, six are Americans.

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

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was established in 1947, with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. In September, Timor-Leste was officially welcomed as ESCAP's newest member, bringing membership to a total of 53 nations (including non-regional members France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) plus nine associate members. The United States is a full ESCAP member.

ESCAP gives technical support to member governments on a wide array of socio-economic development issues. Activities include direct advisory services, training and sharing of regional experiences, and dissemination of knowledge and data through meetings, seminars, publications, and inter-country networks.

Since his appointment in July 2000, Executive Secretary Dr. Kim Hak-Su (Republic of Korea) has focused ESCAP on poverty alleviation, which is a dominant concern for many countries. Dr. Kim's institutional reforms went into effect in January 2003, outlining a new structure with the following three main thematic committees: Poverty Reduction, Managing Globalization, and Emerging Social Issues. The United States continued to be a strong supporter of these reform initiatives.

The theme for the 59th annual session was "Integrating economic and social concerns, especially HIV/AIDS, in meeting the needs of the region." The U.S. Ambassador to Thailand delivered a statement highlighting U.S. assistance to fight the disease in the region. He outlined successful strategies for reducing new infections, drawing on the experiences of Uganda, Thailand, and Cambodia. The United States participated actively in negotiations on the HIV/AIDS resolution, working to ensure that language in the text was consistent with the trade agreement on intellectual property rights regarding affordable life-saving HIV/AIDS medications.

In addition to its funding from the UN regular budget of approximately \$32.4 million, ESCAP also receives voluntary extra-budgetary contributions, primarily for its workshops and other technical assistance programs. The U.S. contributed \$7.1 million through its UN assessment, and provided \$160,000 to an ESCAP narcotics demand-reduction initiative.

Of 175 professional positions in the ESCAP Secretariat, 11 are held by American citizens.

## **Social Issues**

### **Commission for Social Development**

The Commission for Social Development is a functional body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that meets annually to advise

ECOSOC on social policies and issues. The 46-member Commission is the key UN body for the implementation of the outcome of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. The priority theme at the 41st session of the Commission, held in New York February 10–21, 2003, was national and international cooperation for social development. Included within that theme was a discussion of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The United States joined consensus on seven topical resolutions. The most contentious item on the agenda concerned the text on a possible international convention for persons with disabilities. The result was a technically correct if inelegantly worded resolution for the 2004 summer ECOSOC session that did not prejudice the negotiating strategy of the United States.

Another resolution that caused problems for the United States concerned the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004, which succeeded largely because of U.S. bilateral negotiations. The United States added a reference to the family as the basic unit of society and insisted that the resolution on the family include a reference to the responsibilities of both parents in raising their children. The United Nations and many nations agreed to conduct events and commemorate the International Day of the Family on May 15, 2004.

### **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The UN General Assembly decided in 2001 to establish an *ad hoc* committee to determine whether there was a need for another human rights convention, one that would focus exclusively on the situation of persons with disabilities. The Committee on a Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities met for the first time in 2002, but was unable to agree that there was a need for a new international document. One of the major topics at the 2003 annual UN Commission for Social Development concerned the work of this *ad hoc* Committee. The Commission recommended that the *ad hoc* Committee continue its work for another year. The *ad hoc* Committee reconvened on June 16 for a two-week session.

The United States, a leader in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, determined that the best way to promote and protect U.S. interests was to act as an expert resource for the Committee in the process of considering a convention, but not acceding to a new international agreement. The United States maintained that existing international human rights instruments provide all the protections that persons with disabilities need and that the real work of fighting discrimination must take place at the national level.

U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Ralph F. Boyd delivered the U.S. statement on June 18 to the *ad hoc* Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. He stressed the long and strong U.S. commitment to eliminating discrimination against persons with disabilities, while increasing their access in society. Among the

many U.S. accomplishments he noted were passage and implementation of such landmark legislation as the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as the President's more recent New Freedom Initiative. Launched in 2001, the New Freedom Initiative program promotes the full participation of people with disabilities in all areas of society by increasing access to assistive and universally designed technologies, and by expanding educational, employment and community life opportunities. The U.S. delegation consisted of experts from several government agencies. During the June session and a second session in December, these experts contributed to the multilateral process by providing details about the relevant U.S. legislative and judicial precedents. Negotiations are expected to continue into 2005.

### **Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) is the principal UN policy-making body on criminal justice issues. The 40-member Commission convenes annually in the UN Office in Vienna. Some decisions from these annual meetings are forwarded to the UN Economic and Social Council (or occasionally to the UN General Assembly) for endorsement.

The 12th session of the Crime Commission convened May 13–22, 2003, in Vienna. The theme of the Commission was trafficking in persons, especially of women and children. This reflected the high priority placed on this issue by President Bush, as highlighted in his address to the UN General Assembly on September 20. Three panel discussions and a workshop were dedicated to the topic. The Commission produced 12 resolutions, including U.S.-drafted or cosponsored resolutions on human trafficking, implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), and implementation of the international terrorism conventions and protocols. These resolutions direct the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) towards areas where it has relevant expertise and can best complement U.S. bilateral assistance efforts.

The U.S. resolution on human trafficking urged member states to ratify or accede to the TOC human trafficking protocol and to strengthen their capacities to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, as well as provide assistance to victims. The resolution also encouraged states to raise public awareness of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and to examine the role of prostitution in contributing to human trafficking. The United States presented a Model Law of Trafficking in Persons during a panel discussion, which was received with interest by states working on relevant legislation.

The United States cosponsored a resolution with France on promoting international cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime. The resolution tasks the UNODC to assist states in implementation of the TOC. The resolution requires the UNODC to conduct a study on the effectiveness of existing legal mutual assistance mechanisms and extradition treaties. The United States also noted the need for increased transparency and

accountability in the UNODC's finances and project administration and supported two Japanese resolutions formalizing recommendations for these reforms.

The United States voiced support for the Global Program against Terrorism and urged the Crime Office to continue coordinating its counter-terrorism assistance with the UN's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and Office of Legal Affairs in New York. The United States also worked with other states to sponsor a widely supported resolution encouraging the UNODC to continue technical assistance to states ratifying or acceding to the 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

### **UN Convention Against Corruption**

Negotiation of the UN Convention Against Corruption was concluded in 2003. The UNODC hosted over seven weeks of formal negotiating sessions in Vienna, which were held in January, March, July/August, and September. In October, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention Against Corruption. Two months later, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft signed the Convention during the High-Level Political Conference held in Merida, Mexico. The Corruption Convention sets a new standard as the first truly global anti-corruption instrument that commits governments to address corruption domestically and to cooperate internationally to combat corruption. The United States played a key role in the negotiations leading up to the completion of the Convention.

### **International Drug Control**

Both the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board, based in Vienna, support U.S. drug control objectives. The UN drug control conventions (the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 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.

The UNODC embarked on a new course in 2003 under the leadership of a new executive director, Antonio Maria Costa (Italy). On August 1, Costa merged the two previously separate offices of the UN Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the UN Center for International Crime Prevention (CICP) into a consolidated bureaucratic structure, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime. The United States supported UNODC's objectives for enacting this merger, namely maximizing efficiencies and promoting greater collaboration among experts on crosscutting issues. However, the United States also supported the maintenance of separate funding mechanisms for crime and drug projects as a means of ensuring the continued delivery of voluntary contributions to designated programs. Due to the vast discrepancies in resources and personnel

between the two previous organizations, the United States urged Costa to ensure that the anti-crime functions formerly coordinated by CICIP retain their visibility.

U.S. support during the year had significant impact on the operations and expansion of UN counter-narcotics programs and policy. UNODC and the United States pursued counter-narcotics objectives similarly by combining alternative crop development programs with demand and supply reduction. UNODC supported supply reduction objectives through its promotion of enhanced law enforcement and regulatory capabilities to interdict drug shipments, prevent diversion of precursor chemicals, investigate and prosecute traffickers, and eradicate illicit drug crops. The United States was particularly encouraged by UNODC's success in contributing to the reduction of the illicit cultivation of opium poppy in certain countries, including Burma and Laos.

The UNODC used funds provided by the United States to support global programs to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, enhance precursor chemical control, and provide legal advice on treaty implementation. Specifically, the UNODC used this contribution to fund major alternative development projects in Laos and the Wa territories of Burma, as well as chemical control projects in South and Central Asia, and judicial/prosecutorial training in Africa, Latin America, and East Asia. Capacity-building projects in Afghanistan and Central Asia were also high priority programs.

The 53-member UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), of which the United States has been a member since 1946, is the central policy-making body within the UN system for dealing with drug-related matters. The CND held its 46th session, which included a ministerial-level segment, in Vienna on April 8–17, 2003. During the regular CND session, delegates reviewed the worldwide activities and management of the UNODC. They received briefings on various aspects of the global narcotics situation and follow-up to a previous Special Session on drug control, including alternative drug demand reduction efforts, money laundering, and administrative and budgetary issues. U.S. Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky attended the ministerial-level segment.

The United States achieved its goals during the CND session, including the adoption of U.S.-sponsored resolutions on “Enhancing International Cooperation Against Drug Trafficking by Sea” and “Strengthening Drug Demand Reduction and Treatment Efforts in Compliance with International Drug Treaties.” The United States co-drafted a resolution on UNODC management that recognized improvement, but called for stronger project evaluation. In other resolutions, the United States emphasized the link between narcotics trafficking and terrorist financing, as well as between drug abuse and economic/social decline. The United States also urged governments, UN agencies, and international organizations to “mainstream” counter-narcotics activities into overall sustainable development.

On November 26–27, the CND reconvened in Vienna to review and approve the final UNODC 2002–2003 budget and the proposed 2004–2005 UNODC biennial budget. The members also debated and approved the agenda for the forthcoming 47th session of the CND. The United States, working with the Asian group, GRULAC (Latin America and Caribbean Group), and other member states, succeeded in securing the theme for the next session of “Synthetic Drugs and Control of Precursor Chemicals” and, for the 48th session in 2005, the subject of “Drug Abuse: Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation.”

The UNODC’s assessed budget for 2003 was approximately \$15 million, of which the U.S. paid 22 percent, or \$3.3 million. In addition, the U.S. made a voluntary contribution of \$23.8 million through the State Department, including \$17.3 million for UNODC programs in Afghanistan and Central Asia.

In 2003 the UNODC had 177 professionals in Vienna and the field; 17 were American citizens.

#### **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

The 13-member International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is an independent quasi-judicial control body which has a mandate to promote government compliance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties and to assist governments in this effort. The Board meets periodically to monitor the implementation of the drug control treaties and the international movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Retired Ambassador Melvin Levitsky, former Department of State Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) was elected to the Board in October 2003. Although board members serve in their individual capacity, the presence of an American viewpoint is invaluable to promote U.S. policy interests.

At its November meeting, the Board discussed the micro-level impact of drugs, crime, and violence and reviewed the impact of the different forms of crime and violence associated with drug use. This topic formed part of the Board’s Annual Report for 2003, in which the Board analyzed the impact of drugs on society by reviewing the relationship between drug abuse, crime, and violence at the community level. The report also focused on the relationship between illicit drug abuse, crime, and violence with respect to individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities, taking into account both criminality and victimization.

## **Human Rights**

### **Status of Women**

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established in 1946 as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, seeks to improve the situation of women in the areas of political participation, economic opportunity, social development, health, and education. The United

States has successfully used the annual CSW meetings to highlight U.S. activities to improve conditions for women throughout the world.

The CSW convened its 47th session in New York on March 3–14, 2003. At each session, member states consider two main themes from the 12 areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. In 2003, member states reached agreement on Agreed Conclusions on “Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.” They could not arrive at consensus on draft Agreed Conclusions on “Women’s human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.”

Members adopted the following resolutions by consensus: “Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan,” “Women, the girl child, and HIV/AIDS,” “Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programs in the UN system” (U.S. cosponsored), and “Communications concerning the status of women.” The United States called for a vote on and voted against the resolution “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women.” The United States opposed CSW’s annual practice of approving this one-sided resolution that singled out Israel for criticism.

## **Human Rights**

In a variety of UN forums, the United States continued to call for respect for human rights, and made efforts to expose human rights violators throughout 2003. During the year, the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) adopted 86 resolutions and 18 decisions. The Economic and Social Council adopted the UNCHR report and 34 draft decisions dealing with human rights issues. The UN General Assembly adopted more than 70 human rights resolutions. In the 58th General Assembly, the United States worked closely with like-minded delegations to secure adoption of resolutions condemning human rights violations in Burma, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, and Turkmenistan.

The UNCHR is the principal UN organ for achieving the UN Charter objective of promoting respect for human rights. It is composed of 53 members, each elected for three-year terms. Human rights violators continued to seek election to the Commission, with countries such as Cuba, Vietnam, Libya, and Zimbabwe serving as members in 2003. The UNCHR held its annual session in Geneva, Switzerland, March 16–April 26. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick headed the U.S. delegation. Almost immediately after the Commission opened, the United States was faced with a severe challenge in Geneva when the U.S.-led intervention in Iraq began on March 19. The United States was able to work with allies to fend off the proposal that the Commission hold a Special Sitting that would have been critical of U.S. actions.

Other Middle East–related issues remained contentious during the session, with continued efforts by several members to adopt unbalanced resolutions about Israel. The controversy over resolutions targeting only Israeli actions magnified differences among the members of the UNCHR and created an environment hostile to consensus.

Members of the UNCHR also differed on the focus of the Commission. Many countries, especially developing countries, pressed for continued emphasis on economic, social, and cultural rights, while the United States supported focusing attention and action on violations of civil and political rights, no matter where they had occurred. The Commission did, however, adopt resolutions condemning human rights violations in Belarus, Burma, Cuba, North Korea, and Turkmenistan.

The United States worked bilaterally and multilaterally to promote a democracy caucus in Washington, New York, Geneva, and through its embassies overseas. At the 2003 Commission meeting, the United States led intensive consultations on the topic in collaboration with Poland and South Korea, hosts of the past two Community of Democracies (CD) Ministerial meetings. Based on membership in the CD, the caucus would aim to improve the work of the CHR, encourage the CHR's membership to reflect its intended principles, and promote rule of law and democracy in UN fora.

At the 2003 General Assembly, the United States sponsored a resolution on support for improving election monitoring and electoral processes in countries throughout the UN system. The resolution was adopted with overwhelming support, including the participating countries in the Community of Democracies.

## **Humanitarian Issues**

### **Afghanistan**

The United Nations played an instrumental role in addressing humanitarian concerns in Afghanistan. Working through the Program Secretariat structure that the United Nations established, various UN specialized agencies were paired with respective Afghan Ministries to address humanitarian and reconstruction challenges. This UN model enabled Afghan policy-makers and technocrats to successfully assume responsibility for future program and policy decisions.

In 2003, over a half million refugees returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran, bringing the total number of returns to 2.7 million since the fall of the Taliban in 2002. This is one of the largest returns of people the world has ever seen. Afghanistan's ability to sustainably integrate these returnees in the long term, as well as to absorb the additional 3.1 million refugees and internally displaced persons who remain, are important variables in achieving U.S. objectives for this country.

Central to the return and reintegration process is the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which provides life-saving assistance and protection for refugees and returnees. The Department of State provided

nearly 30 percent of UNHCR's budget in the last three years, including \$52.9 million in 2003. In total, the State Department has given over \$260 million since September 2001 to UNHCR and other agencies for the care of refugees, returnees, and vulnerable Afghans. Included in this amount is nearly \$80 million that the Department has provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). ICRC implements programs on health, water, and sanitation, and fosters humanitarian law and principles. It has been an essential broker in humanitarian issues among local leaders and organizations on behalf of conflict victims and detainees.

The State Department gave \$2.4 million to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support education, sanitation, and mine awareness for Afghan children and their families. In addition, the Department contributed \$1 million to the Afghan Conservation Corps, which is an initiative to employ and train vulnerable Afghans in environmental conservation activities.

The UN's humanitarian programs would not be successful without the cooperation and contributions of the many nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that implement programs in Afghan communities. Supporting these organizations, the State Department contributed \$22 million for NGO assistance to Afghans in 2003.

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan dropped from a 2002 high of more than 1 million to 184,000 in late 2003, although unofficial estimates of IDP numbers remain as high as 300,000. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), working in partnership with Afghan ministries, takes the lead on assisting IDPs return to their places of origin. IOM's large-scale return program is funded partly by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). After a medical screening, IOM arranges transportation all the way to the end destination. Upon arrival, the returning IDPs receive a reintegration package that can include winter tents, a shelter kit, food and non-food items, and an agriculture kit with supplies to anchor the return. Vulnerable members of the community of origin also receive assistance packages. To help anchor returnees, IOM also implements quick impact projects and employment programs.

In 2003, USAID contributed \$24.5 million for emergency and humanitarian programs in Afghanistan. Of that amount, the United Nations received \$1.5 million and NGOs received \$23.1 million. USAID assistance benefited IDPs and other vulnerable populations in such sectors as infrastructure rehabilitation, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, agriculture and food security, and income generation and livelihoods. USAID's UN grants went to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for relief coordination, the Food and Agriculture Organization for various education programs, and the World Food Program (WFP) for food assistance, with corresponding grants to the UN Development Program/UN Office for Project Services for winter road clearance in support of WFP's winter food programs. Further grants went to UNICEF for health and nutrition and various winter programs, and to the UNHCR for earthquake relief.

USAID also provided significant food aid to WFP for its work to assist refugees, IDPs, and other food-insecure groups in Afghanistan. Food for work, for teachers, and for teacher training were also among the services provided, all of which contributed to strengthening the community infrastructure. USAID provided the WFP a total of about \$47 million in food aid for work in Afghanistan in 2003.

## **Iraq**

At the beginning of 2003, the highest U.S. priority in the United Nations was working with the Security Council to urge Saddam Hussein to finally and fully disarm publicly or face the consequences of not doing so. Based on his record of non-compliance with 17 previous UN Security Council resolutions, U.S. humanitarian offices made elaborate preparations, including discreet contacts with UN agencies, for possible humanitarian needs ensuing from military intervention. The eventual intervention succeeded so quickly that a humanitarian crisis never materialized. Although normal deliveries of humanitarian supplies under the UN Oil-for-Food program were temporarily disrupted following the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime, UN relief agencies acting under UN Security Council Resolution 1483 and in cooperation with the U.S.-led coalition were able to ensure the functioning of the Public Distribution System, through which millions of Iraqis received basic food items at low or no cost.

## **World Food Program (WFP)**

The World Food Program (WFP) is the UN's front-line agency in the fight against global hunger. In 2003, WFP fed 110 million people, the largest number in its 40-year history. In Iraq, WFP carried out the largest humanitarian aid operation ever. At its peak, the WFP moved 1,000 tons of food an hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, despite enormous obstacles. At the same time, WFP helped feed approximately 40 million people across Africa, during one of the worst food disasters to hit the continent in decades. James T. Morris (United States) became WFP's 10th Executive Director in April 2002. WFP's governing body, the Executive Board, has 36 members, including the United States.

In 2003, the WFP helped the United States achieve its humanitarian and development goals, carrying out programs in Iraq, Ethiopia, and southern Africa, among other locations. WFP's 2003 expenditures in these humanitarian efforts totaled \$2.6 billion. Approximately \$1 billion of this was for programs in Iraq (\$524 million), southern Africa (\$290 million), and Ethiopia (\$228 million). WFP also devoted some resources to its school feeding programs in the developing world.

In April 2003, WFP launched an Emergency Operation for Iraq, which provided assistance to the total Iraqi population of 27 million people. From June through November, WFP transported more than 2.1 million tons of food to Iraq. The WFP also renegotiated hundreds of Oil-for-Food contracts authorized under UN Security Council Resolutions 1472 and 1483 (2003). By

the end of October, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) had provided \$424.6 million to WFP for the Iraq operation.

In 2003, 13.2 million Ethiopians needed food assistance. Due to fears that overall food aid resources for 2003 would fall short of the needs, WFP reduced rations for the first few months of the year. However, donor response to the Joint Government–UN Appeal in December 2002 and subsequent appeals was unprecedented. By the end of October, confirmed contributions for 94 percent of the total food aid requirements had been received. WFP covered approximately 40 percent of the food aid requirements. The remaining 60 percent of the aid requirements were covered by contributions channeled through nongovernmental organizations or as bilateral contributions to the government of Ethiopia. In 2003, the United States provided \$583 million to meet emergency food and other needs in Ethiopia, of which \$210 million was directed through the World Food Program.

WFP has been carrying out emergency feeding in southern Africa since 2001. The peak of operations was in 2002 when 10.2 million people received WFP food aid. In July 2003, the United Nations launched a new Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for \$530 million. WFP's portion, \$311 million, provided food aid to 6.5 million people in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia, and Lesotho. Between July and December 2003, WFP distributed a total of 235,000 metric tons of food to a monthly average of 3.3 million beneficiaries. By the end of 2003, the food sector of the Consolidated Appeal was 69 percent funded. During fiscal year 2003, the United States provided more than \$238 million in emergency humanitarian assistance in response to the complex food security crisis in southern Africa. Of this, \$116 million was directed through the World Food Program.

The southern Africa food crisis was complicated by the fact that this region has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to nearly three-fourths of the world's HIV-infected population; 11 million children under the age of 15 have lost at least one parent to AIDS. On February 6, WFP and the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS signed an agreement to increase their cooperation in responding to HIV/AIDS. WFP had already begun responding to the challenges posed by the pandemic, including by altering the nutritional value and composition of emergency rations to increase protein, minerals, and vitamins. By December 2003, WFP had HIV/AIDS-related activities in 30 African countries, six Latin American and Caribbean countries, four Asian countries, and one Eastern European country.

For nearly 40 years, WFP has been the largest organizer of school feeding programs in the developing world. Working with national governments, local authorities, and other aid groups, WFP uses food to attract children to school in areas where enrollment ratios are lowest and where school feeding will have the greatest impact. The United States is the largest contributor to WFP's global school feeding programs. U.S. funding comes from the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products.

The program also provides financial and technical assistance for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income countries. For 2003, the McGovern-Dole Program was funded at \$100 million. USDA approved 21 project proposals in 21 countries, with total beneficiaries estimated to be 2.25 million. These were primarily school children, but also included mothers, infants, and pre-school children. WFP is the implementing partner for 12 of the 21 projects, with an estimated beneficiary population of over 1.5 million.

WFP's Strategic Plan for the period 2004–2007 contains the following five priorities: to save lives in crisis situations; to protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience to shocks; to support improved nutrition and health status of children, mothers and other vulnerable people; to support access to education and reduce gender disparity in access to education and skills training; and to help governments establish and manage national food-assistance programs.

In 2003, the WFP attracted new donors, including Russia and India and entered into partnerships with the private sector (including TPG, a Dutch global mail, express, and logistics company; Benetton, the Italian clothing manufacturer; and Toyota) to increase its donor base. In addition, WFP teamed up with the Rugby World Cup in Australia, musicians, and actors to create awareness of global hunger and to increase WFP's visibility. In 2003, 24 of the top 30 donors increased their contributions over the previous year. Contributions from the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and inter-governmental organizations totaled over \$48 million.

In October 2003, Catherine Bertini, former WFP Executive Director, was awarded the World Food Prize. She donated the entire cash value of the award (\$250,000) to WFP to establish an endowment to assist vulnerable women and children.

At its third regular session in October 2003, WFP's Executive Board took note of WFP's 2004–2005 budget and approved WFP's Strategic Plan for 2004–2007. The 2004–2005 budget of \$4.8 billion endeavors to raise funds for 100 percent of all approved programs and provide the technical support and emergency preparedness capacity so that WFP can carry out its work effectively. The new budget, which is based on anticipated needs rather than on past commitments or projected donor funding, as previous budgets had been, is \$1.6 billion higher than the original budget estimate for 2002–2003. In 2003, 53 percent of WFP's resources were directed to emergency operations (\$1.38 billion). Protracted relief and recovery operations accounted for 32 percent (\$826 million); development programs 9 percent (\$238 million); and special operations 3 percent (\$73 million).

WFP operates exclusively from voluntary contributions of commodities and cash donated by governments and other donors. In 2003, contributions totaled approximately \$2.6 billion, making it a record year. The United States remained WFP's largest donor, contributing over \$1.47 billion (56.8 percent) in 2003. The bulk of the U.S. contributions were from USAID

(approximately \$1.35 billion), followed by USDA (over \$77 million), the State Department (over \$25 million), and the Emerson Trust (\$22 million).

Despite having the largest budget of any major UN agency or program, WFP has a small headquarters staff and low overhead—averaging out at only 9 percent. As of December 31, 8,770 WFP employees held contracts of one year or longer. Out of this number, 655 were at headquarters; the remainder were in the field. WFP had 979 international professional staff in 2003, 97 of whom were U.S. citizens.

### **UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Established in 1950, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and for durable solutions to their plight. In 2003, the total population of concern to UNHCR numbered 20.7 million refugees, returnees, and other displaced persons, an increase of about 1 million from 2002.

The United States closely monitored UNHCR operations in the field through its State Department-based program officers and its refugee coordinators located around the world. A leading advocate for the protection of refugees, the United States was particularly active in 2003, funding an initiative to provide temporary staff to fill gaps or meet surges in UNHCR's protection operations around the world; supporting efforts to develop a standardized and effective refugee registration system; and encouraging UNHCR to continue its actions to prevent sexual exploitation of refugees following allegations of such abuse in West Africa and Nepal. The United States provided additional funding to UNHCR in 2003 to augment its resettlement capacity. This funding enabled it to increase the identification and referral of refugees for admission to the U.S. resettlement program.

In 2003, the UNHCR focused on refugee situations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa. Refugee returns to Afghanistan continued, bringing the total to 2.5 million over the past two years. Rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts continued. While UNHCR facilitated some voluntary refugee returns to Iraq, it did not promote returns because of security concerns. UNHCR international staff was withdrawn from Iraq following the August bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad. In Angola, a successful peace process led to the return of some 200,000 refugees from neighboring countries. The challenge became their sustainable reintegration in a country devastated by years of war. In all these situations, officers and refugee coordinators from the State Department worked actively with UNHCR to ensure an effective response.

UNHCR's Executive Committee (EXCOM), of which the United States is a member, approved a global 2003 annual program budget of approximately \$809 million. In addition to the annual program budget, UNHCR appealed for \$330.6 million for supplementary programs to meet needs unforeseen at the beginning of the year, including refugee returns to Afghanistan and Angola, and contingency planning for Iraq.

In 2003, the High Commissioner initiated “Convention Plus,” a process designed to address areas not covered in the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol. In governing board meetings and bilateral discussions, the United States urged that this mechanism be targeted to find solutions to specific protracted refugee situations. Much of the effort under Convention Plus in 2003 focused on the development of generic agreements on resettlement, secondary movements, and targeting development assistance for refugees.

UNHCR also holds three Standing Committee meetings throughout the year. Each fall, UNHCR’s Executive Committee (EXCOM) meets to discuss protection, policy, management, financial, and program issues. The U.S. plenary statement in fall 2003 focused on planning for refugee returns to Iraq when safe and on capacity-building of Iraqi authorities to ensure a seamless transfer of authority; continued attention on sustainable return of Afghan refugees; prospects for peace and refugee return in Africa; commitment to a multilateral approach to refugee protection and assistance and strong support for UNHCR; calling for a real assessment of refugee needs; concern about food pipeline breaks; and calling for increased physical protection, with special emphasis on refugee women and children.

The United States and UNHCR negotiated a new Framework for Cooperation for 2003. Priorities included better protection of refugees, especially for women and children; increased capacity-building of UNHCR to enhance referrals for resettlement of refugees in the United States; improved management oversight and accountability; a strengthened refugee registration mechanism; enhanced emergency preparedness and response; and increased American staffing in UNHCR. The United States and UNHCR conducted an end of year assessment, which showed progress on resettlement referrals, where UNHCR surpassed its target of 13,000, as well as on the development of an effective, standardized registration system. The assessment improved accountability through the development of a Code of Conduct.

UNHCR’s budget in 2003 was \$1.18 billion. UNHCR is funded almost exclusively through voluntary contributions, with only 2 percent of its budget coming from the UN regular budget. The United States remained the largest contributor to UNHCR, providing \$309 million (about 27 percent of the budget) through the Department of State. While UNHCR faced a funding shortfall of \$94 million in 2003, it managed its budget more effectively by reducing some programs at the beginning of the year.

In 2003, UNHCR maintained offices in some 120 countries worldwide, with a staff of 5,000 employees. Of 1,349 international professional positions, 116 were filled by U.S. citizens.

### **UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**

Since 1950, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has provided education, health, and social services

to Palestinian refugees and their descendants that live in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. These refugees now number over 4 million.

UNRWA, which is headed by Commissioner-General Peter Hansen (Denmark), has 23,000 employees, most of whom are teachers. In 2003, UNRWA spent about 55 percent of its regular budget on education, including schools and teachers. Approximately 17 percent of its 2003 regular budget was devoted to health services, and another 9 percent on relief and social services. UNRWA spent the remaining 19 percent on operational services. The United States believes that UNRWA has done a good job under difficult circumstances in providing for the basic humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees.

In 2003, the United States contributed \$134 million to UNRWA, which constituted about 34 percent of UNRWA's total 2003 donor funding of \$394 million. This included \$88 million from the Department of State to UNRWA's General Fund; \$41 million from the Department of State for food, shelter repair, health needs, and short-term employment in response to UNRWA's emergency appeal for the West Bank and Gaza; and an additional \$5 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the same emergency appeal.

UNRWA had 126 international professional positions in 2003, of which 17 were U.S. citizens.

### **Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Activities**

In July 2003, the United States focused on mitigation of disasters in meetings with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Office of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) in Geneva. ISDR is the UN's main organ for stimulating governments to develop effective policies to mitigate the destructive consequences of natural hazards such as earthquakes, fires, and hurricanes. OCHA has the lead in the UN system to coordinate the global response to disasters. Part of the OCHA meeting was devoted to preparations for the 2004 World Conference of the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) in Washington, D.C., and the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan. OCHA will organize that conference. The United States was instrumental in achieving an agreement with OCHA that conference costs would be paid for from voluntary contributions, not the UN core budget. Maintaining budgetary discipline at the UN is a key U.S. priority.

The United States took an active role in the UN General Assembly on several disaster-related resolutions. New issues, such as concerns about possible links between climate change and the frequency of natural disasters, required substantial coordination by the State Department with other U.S. agencies to protect U.S. interests while promoting concern for the environment. Old resolutions such as one on Chernobyl that has endured nearly 20 years after the event were revisited despite efforts by several countries last year to take such items off the agenda. The United States was able to work with like-minded countries to shift the Chernobyl resolution from

the humanitarian segment to the development segment of the UN General Assembly agenda.

In addition to the new and old challenges presented at the General Assembly, there were several disaster-related items on which the United States engaged to promote and to protect U.S. interests. For example, the U.S. delegation persuaded the drafters of the resolution that endorsed the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to include a requirement that women be brought into the design phase of a nation's disaster reduction policies. A separate resolution on the vulnerability of developing countries to natural disasters had the potential to become a North-South debate. The U.S. delegation coordinated with other nations to balance the resolution with references to the need for all countries to take appropriate measures to reduce their risks to natural hazards. As a result, the United States was able to join consensus.

At the end of 2003, the United States worked with the United Nations once again to respond to an earthquake in Bam, Iran, on December 26. Several divisions of the U.S. government, including the Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, cooperated with UN agencies to provide information, material, and staffing to aid the victims of the earthquake.

### **NGO Committee**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO Committee) is the UN body that adjudicates requests by nongovernmental organizations for accreditation to participate in ECOSOC and its subsidiaries' meetings. The 19 members of the Committee in 2003 were Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Iran, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, United States, and Zimbabwe. Terms for Committee membership are of four years; the U.S. term will end on December 31, 2006. Sessions were held May 5–23 and December 15–29.

The United States maintained close working relationships with other democracies, discussing the candidates as well as the procedures with them. Despite an increase in the pace of the Committee's work over the past two years, the annual output remained far below the annual number of new applicants, causing the backlog of applications to build up. The Committee accredited 57 NGOs in the main session, and 53 in the resumed session. The United States will continue to work with like-minded countries on the Committee and in ECOSOC to accelerate the vetting process.

Some countries with undemocratic governments remained suspicious of human rights groups, and in some cases, launched politically motivated campaigns against organizations. Cuba succeeded in obtaining a one-year suspension of French NGO Reporters Without Borders, Libya unsuccessfully requested the suspension of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and Vietnam requested a suspension of the Transnational Radical Party, but consideration of the request was deferred to 2004. Undemocratic countries also repeatedly

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requested additional information of NGOs which delayed accreditation. On occasion, geo-political disputes, such as between India and Pakistan, spilled over into the Committee, causing countries to block each other's candidates.

On the positive side, the U.S. delegation played an active supporting role with regard to well-known and respected NGOs from the United States that sought accreditation. Success included the positive decisions given by the Committee to the Heritage Foundation and Focus on the Family. The United States sought the suspension of Tupac Amaru, but consideration was deferred until 2004.

In 2002, the Committee agreed to create an outreach tool, called the UN NGO Informal Regional Network (IRENE). In 2003, IRENE published a newsletter and organized workshops for NGOs in developing countries to enable them to learn more about ECOSOC and the accreditation process.