

## Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies

### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), established in 1945, is a UN specialized agency that provides global data, technical expertise, and a venue for policy coordination and setting of international standards in agriculture and nutrition, fisheries, forestry, and other issues related to food and agriculture. FAO is the UN system's largest technical agency, with headquarters in Rome, and 74 country offices and five regional, five sub-regional, and five liaison offices, including one located in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Jacques Diouf (Senegal) has been Director-General of FAO since 1994. FAO's highest policy-making body, the biennial Conference, comprises all 188 FAO member countries plus the European Community. Belarus joined the FAO in 2005. The Conference determines FAO policy and approves FAO's regular program of work and budget. Each biennial Conference elects a 49-member Council that meets at least four times between regular Conference sessions to make recommendations to the Conference on budget and policy issues. The United States has a guaranteed seat on the Council, sits on the crucial Finance Committee, and participates actively in other major governing bodies and technical committees.

At its session in November 2004, the FAO Council agreed by consensus to launch an independent external evaluation (IEE) of FAO aimed at strengthening and improving the organization, a key U.S. priority. At its November 2005 session, the Council agreed on the terms of reference and oversight mechanisms for the evaluation. It decided that the IEE be initiated as soon as possible, subject to available voluntary funding, so that the evaluation report could be completed in time for the November 2007 Council and Conference.

In 2005, the United States continued to stress more efficient use of scarce resources and greater program effectiveness, support for FAO's standard-setting, and other normative work. The United States also worked to improve emergency needs assessments and FAO's capabilities to respond to large-scale agricultural emergencies, through sponsorship of capacity building efforts at headquarters and the spearheading of an independent multi-donor evaluation of the 2003–2005 Desert Locust campaign. The United States also worked actively to promote American candidates for key posts.

Of particular importance to the United States were the internationally recognized standards for food safety and plant health developed by the joint FAO/World Health Organization Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The work of these bodies facilitates trade and protects consumers in developed and developing countries. In 2005, the

United States continued to work with other countries in FAO policy-making bodies to ensure greater financial support from the overall FAO budget for Codex and IPPC.

The United States also valued FAO's expertise in agricultural commodity and trade issues, and in 2005 pressed for more active roles by the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the Consultative Committee on Surplus Disposal. The FAO State of Food and Agriculture Report for 2005 on Agricultural Trade and Poverty, released prior to the World Trade Organization Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting, made a valuable contribution to the ongoing global debate on agricultural trade liberalization.

FAO continued its work on plant genetic resources. In preparation for the 2006 opening meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the United States funded a meeting in July 2005 of a contact group for the drafting of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, which is the principal operational component of the Treaty's Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing.

FAO has a mandate, in collaboration with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to coordinate the international effort to control avian influenza at the global and regional levels. In 2005, FAO and OIE prepared a global strategy for the prevention and control of avian influenza that addressed country level activities as well as regional and international coordination. FAO provided support for disease control efforts in affected countries and began implementation of preparedness planning for countries considered to be at risk. FAO's multi-faceted approach included strengthening veterinary networks, providing technical assistance, conducting diagnostic and surveillance activities, issuing guidelines, and increasing public awareness. Throughout 2005, the U.S. Agency for International Development worked with FAO to develop and implement improved surveillance and response to avian influenza outbreaks in endemic countries in Southeast Asia. Lastly, in fall 2005, FAO joined the U.S.-led International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza and worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve collaboration on avian influenza, particularly on a systematic approach to needs assessments in affected and at-risk countries and to create a Crisis Management Center to respond to outbreaks of avian influenza.

In 2005, FAO convened a Ministerial Meeting on Forests immediately preceding the biennial meeting of the Committee on Forestry. FAO members agreed on the need for increased international cooperation on fire preparedness and wildland fire management, and supported FAO's continuation of enhanced roles for the Regional Forestry Commissions (goals supported by the United States).

In 2005, FAO convened its biennial Committee on Fisheries, followed by a one-day Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries. These meetings advanced several significant U.S. objectives, particularly in addressing the

effects of fishing on the marine environment, cracking down further on illegal fishing, and making international organizations in this field more accountable. The United States continued to look to FAO as the international organization with the membership, the mandate, and the expertise to tackle global sustainable fisheries and aquaculture problems.

The 33rd Conference, which met in November 2005, addressed international anti-hunger, food policy, and agricultural trade issues, and key institutional questions of the organization's budget, leadership, and reform. It re-elected Jacques Diouf, the only candidate, for a third term. (A two-term limit for the position of Director-General takes effect in January 2006.)

Beginning in September 2005, the Director-General released a series of reform proposals. Many members welcomed the spirit of these proposals and some of the efficiency and streamlining measures they contained. The United States and other major contributors were concerned, however, that the proposals had not been adequately discussed, and focused primarily on FAO's field work rather than on its normative work, where FAO has a unique role and distinct comparative advantage. In the end, the Conference accepted the rationale and general principles of the Director-General's reform proposals, with phased and conditional implementation of the restructuring of FAO headquarters and field offices.

At the end of 2005, FAO employed 1,100 staff in professional posts subject to geographic distribution, of which 141, or 12.8 percent, were American citizens. While the United States remained "equitably represented" under FAO's geographic distribution system, the U.S. Government continued its efforts to increase hiring and retention of Americans, despite the constraints of budget-driven staff cuts and hiring freezes at FAO. In 2005, U.S. citizens held the two senior positions of Deputy Director-General and Assistant Director-General.

The Conference approved a budget appropriation of \$765.7 million for the 2006–2007 biennium by a vote of 117 to two (United States and Japan), with one abstention (Argentina). The United States had pressed for a zero nominal growth budget; the approved budget was a 2.2 percent nominal increase over the previous biennium. The U.S. annual assessment of 22 percent for calendar year 2005 amounted to approximately \$85 million (contributions are assessed partly in dollars and partly in euros). In 2005, the United States also contributed over \$26 million in voluntary contributions, of which nearly \$20 million were directed to FAO emergency relief and rehabilitation projects in 27 countries and regions. The United States contributed \$180,000 to FAO's National Forest Program Facility; \$70,000 to response management system capacity building relating to wildfires and other emergencies; and \$250,000 to the FAO trust fund established for the IEE.

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

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957, serves critical U.S. interests in nuclear non-proliferation, safety, counterterrorism, and national security by implementing international nuclear safeguards, promoting physical protection of nuclear and radiological material, and promoting nuclear safety. In 2005, IAEA membership rose to 139 countries with the addition of Chad. The 35-member Board of Governors, where the United States holds a *de facto* permanent seat, is responsible for directing and overseeing the Agency's policies and program implementation. The Board meets in Vienna five times a year—March, June, twice in September, and in November, with additional meetings as needed. The General Conference in September is open to all member states and conducts broad oversight of the IAEA's work by deciding on matters presented to it by the Board. The fourth Director-General of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei (Egypt), assumed office on December 1, 1997, and was appointed to a third term in June 2005.

As the number of states acceding to IAEA safeguards has increased, the number and complexity of nuclear facilities subject to safeguards have also grown. Most member states abide by their commitments to the IAEA and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but the IAEA safeguards system must also deal with those few who do not.

### ***Iraq***

There are several IAEA successes to report concerning international cooperation on radioactive source, nuclear material (yellowcake), and radioactive waste issues in Iraq. In the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United States determined that it would coordinate a long-term program to assist the Iraqis in finding and securing orphaned radioactive sources and establishing an independent Iraqi Radioactive Source Regulatory Authority to operate in accordance with the IAEA Code of Conduct for Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Each of the successive Iraqi governments provided support to the fledgling organization.

The United States sponsored the first IAEA radioactive source-control training course for 20 Iraqis in December 2004, which led to the drafting of a comprehensive IAEA Action Plan for Iraq Radioactive Sources in 2005. After the course, Congress approved, through the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund, \$1.25 million to support the radioactive source regulatory development efforts, including funding much of the work done by the IAEA. Since that time there have been regular IAEA training courses organized for Iraqis. In 2005, the United States provided the Iraqis with both basic radiation detection equipment and specialized equipment and training to support field searches for orphaned radioactive sources. An effort was underway to coordinate the Iraq interministerial effort to identify border control specialists

from appropriate ministries who will soon be trained by the IAEA to conduct searches.

In conjunction with the 2005 NPT safeguards inspection of nuclear material (mostly yellowcake) stored at Tuwaiha, the IAEA returned the responsibility for safeguards to Iraq. Iraq has not had access to this material for many years and therefore has not been making annual reports. The IAEA, with Australia's cooperation, conducted training for the Iraqis to enable them to meet their NPT reporting obligations.

The United States is working to facilitate the sale by Iraq of the commercially viable nuclear material stored in Tuwaiha. The United States believes that removing the yellowcake from the region is an important nonproliferation goal. The IAEA, Iraq, and the United States have met to identify Iraq's obligations in respect to such a sale under UN Security Council resolutions. IAEA determined that Iraq should make a courtesy notification of the sale to the Agency. There were about 3,500 barrels of nuclear material stored at Tuwaiha. Many barrels were rusted and contaminated to an extent that they were not suitable for transport. The Department of State arranged for Department of Energy lab experts to assist the Iraqis in developing a detailed plan of action required to prepare the nuclear material for sale.

Iraq requested the IAEA to coordinate an international program to assist Iraq with dismantling and disposing their former nuclear facilities. The IAEA agreed and invited member states to a kick-off meeting in February 2006.

### ***North Korea***

Since North Korea expelled IAEA inspectors in December 2002 and announced its withdrawal from the NPT in January 2003, the United States has sought a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the situation through Six-Party Talks with China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Russia. In September 2005, at the conclusion of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party talks, the Six Parties issued a Joint Statement. In the Statement, the Six Parties unanimously reaffirmed that the goal of the Talks is the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. North Korea committed to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing programs and to return, at an early date, to the NPT and to IAEA safeguards, and that in that context, subject to bilateral concerns, the Six Parties would explore security cooperation in Northeast Asia as well as economic cooperation in the fields of energy, trade, and investment. The other five parties also stated their willingness to provide North Korea with energy assistance. Subsequently, North Korea said it would not rejoin the Six Party talks so long as the United States pursues what North Korea calls a "hostile policy." Despite continuing efforts to bring all parties back to the table, North Korea has not agreed to participate. Meanwhile, the IAEA continued to prepare for inspections to support any diplomatic solution that might be achieved.

## ***Iran***

Iran admitted to the IAEA in 2003 that it had engaged in previously covert efforts to conduct undeclared research in several enrichment technologies, including gas centrifuge and atomic vapor laser isotope separation (AVLIS), as well as undeclared uranium conversion activities, and that it had enriched uranium using both AVLIS (up to 10 percent U-235 enrichment) and gas centrifuges (less than 10 percent). The IAEA also discovered in 2004 that Iran had failed to declare a centrifuge design—the P-2 design—that was more advanced than the P-1 design Iran had admitted to earlier.

IAEA Director-General ElBaradei's reports throughout 2005 confirmed that the IAEA continued to investigate these two issues, as well as a number of other unresolved safeguards concerns, including the timing of Iran's previous plutonium separation experiments, the purpose of hot cells sought by Iran of a design that would allow for plutonium separation, the purpose for Iran's experiments with polonium-2-10, and the involvement of the Iranian military in Iran's centrifuge program and in Iran's attempts to procure dual-use nuclear items that could have military applications. The IAEA also expressed concern that Iran continued not to allow the Agency to investigate at least two undeclared facilities where the IAEA believed undeclared nuclear activities may have been conducted.

On November 14, 2004, Iran and the EU3 (France, Germany, and the United Kingdom) signed an agreement in Paris in which Iran committed to suspend fully all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. The EU3 and Iran also agreed to begin negotiations on a long-term arrangement in which Iran would provide objective guarantees that its nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes, in exchange for firm guarantees of EU3 cooperation and incentives in a range of areas. The EU3 made clear that given Iran's history of concealment and safeguards violations in its nuclear program, objective guarantees must include verified Iranian agreement to end its pursuit of an indigenous nuclear fuel cycle. Following that agreement, the EU3 and Iran met in a number of working group meetings until June 2005.

Concurrently, the United States decided in March 2005 to lend full support to the EU3 process. To demonstrate that support, the Secretary of State made a statement indicating that the United States would agree to lift its objection to Iran's application to the World Trade Organization, and would consider the licensing of spare parts for Iranian civil aircraft on a case-by-case basis. However, Iran refused to agree to the EU3's requirements for objective guarantees, ending the working group meetings in July 2005.

Following several rounds of negotiations with Iran, in August 2005, the EU3 offered Iran a generous proposal of future economic, energy, political, and security incentives if it verifiably gave up its fuel cycle pursuits. On August 8, Iran rejected the EU3 proposal, unilaterally broke its commitments under the Paris Agreement, and resumed uranium conversion activities. Iran's actions

caused the EU3 to suspend its diplomatic process with Iran, and led to the convening of a special IAEA Board of Governors meeting on August 10–11. At that meeting, the IAEA Board called on Iran to re-suspend its uranium conversion activities and requested the IAEA Director-General to report to the Board by September 3 whether Iran had done so.

On September 2, the Director-General provided the IAEA Board with a written report on Iran's nuclear activities. That report reconfirmed Iran's past safeguards failures and breaches, and confirmed that Iran was not providing full information on key unresolved issues, such as the scope and history of Iran's P-2 centrifuge program, Iran's plutonium separation efforts, and the formerly secret G'chine uranium mine. That report also confirmed that Iran was not providing access for the IAEA to visit suspect sites and interview suspect officials. As a result, the report requested transparency measures from Iran that "extend beyond the formal requirements of the Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol." However, the report also suggested that no new safeguards failures had been found and credited Iran with taking corrective action on past safeguards failures.

On September 24, the IAEA Board adopted by vote (22 (U.S.) to 1 (Venezuela), with 12 abstentions) a resolution formally finding Iran in noncompliance with its safeguards obligations in the context of Article XII.C of the IAEA Statute. The same resolution also found that Iran's pattern of deception and denial, continued lack of cooperation with the IAEA, and continued pursuit of the nuclear fuel cycle capabilities in defiance of the international community had given rise to questions that fell within the competence of the UN Security Council. The resolution also confirmed that the Board would decide on the timing and content of the report and notification to the Council as required under Articles XII.C and XIII.B.4 of the IAEA statute. Finally, the resolution urged Iran to "implement transparency measures ... which extend beyond the formal requirements of the Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol"; re-establish a full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities; reconsider construction of a heavy water research reactor; to promptly ratify and implement an Additional Protocol; continue to act as if the Additional Protocol were already in force; and called on Iran to observe fully its commitments and return to the negotiating process.

Following the adoption of that resolution, the United States continued its dialogue with the EU3, Russia, and China, and coordinated further efforts aimed at addressing the proliferation threat posed by Iran's nuclear activities. In November, the IAEA Board deferred action in order to give diplomatic efforts by the EU3 and Russia a chance to succeed. Between September and December, Iran made little progress toward meeting the steps called for in the September 24 resolution. For the remainder of 2005, IAEA investigations continued in Iran despite Iran's refusal to fully cooperate, and the international community continued to call on Iran to comply fully with IAEA Board of Governors resolutions and recommit to the Paris Agreement.

## ***Libya***

In contrast to Iran's behavior, Libya notified IAEA in 2003 of its noncompliance and has since actively and openly cooperated with IAEA in its verification activities. In a March 2004 resolution, the Board of Governors found that Libya's past failures to meet the requirements of its Safeguards Agreement constituted non-compliance and requested the Director-General to report the matter to the UN Security Council for informational purposes only while simultaneously noting the active cooperation of Libya since beginning verification activities and commending Libya's actions to remedy its non-compliance. By September 2004, the IAEA assessed that aspects of Libya's nuclear program had been declared consistently and completely. The IAEA continued its verification work in Libya throughout 2005 and anticipated doing so for the foreseeable future.

## ***Safeguards***

The United States believes it is important that all NPT non-nuclear weapon states adopt the stronger safeguards provisions included in the Additional Protocol. At the end of December, 107 states had signed Additional Protocols, and 71 had brought them into force. During the year, the G-8 (comprised of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with participation of the European Union) continued a G-8 diplomatic effort begun during the U.S. presidency of the G-8 in 2004 to encourage all states that had not yet done so to sign and ratify safeguards agreements and Additional Protocols.

To demonstrate U.S. leadership on safeguards, the United States has worked steadily to prepare for ratification and entry into force of the U.S. Additional Protocol. A central goal of President Bush's nuclear non-proliferation policy, as he stated in his nonproliferation speech to the National Defense University on February 11, 2004, is the universal adoption of the model Additional Protocol. The Model Additional Protocol was approved by the IAEA Board in 1997 and provides for stronger safeguards provisions. Although all five nuclear weapons states have signed Additional Protocols, and the United Kingdom and France are implementing their Protocols, only the United States accepted the full text of the Additional Protocol, subject to a National Security Exclusion. In 2002, President Bush sent the Additional Protocol to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification, which the Senate provided on March 31, 2004. Congress must now adopt implementing legislation for certain provisions before the United States can bring the protocol into force.

## ***Nuclear Security***

The IAEA continued to provide guidance, technical support, and training programs in the prevention of nuclear terrorism in 2005. The United States was a primary supporter of IAEA training programs in physical

protection and nuclear security, having developed the training curricula and presented the courses and workshops on behalf of the Agency in 27 training events in 23 countries.

Under the IAEA's Nuclear Security Action Plan, the Agency accelerated its activities to prevent, detect, and respond to illicit activities involving nuclear and other radiological materials and facilities. As of December 31, 28 member states and two organizations had pledged \$53.1 million to the Nuclear Security Action Plan. The United States pledged nearly two-thirds of this total, and encouraged member states to recognize that all nations face the threat of nuclear terrorism and would benefit from the assistance provided by the Agency.

With U.S. encouragement, the IAEA began to develop Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans with individual states. These plans will provide an important tool for improved coordination with bilateral donor state programs; eight were prepared in 2005.

The IAEA also further developed its new and more encompassing International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) to help states evaluate and strengthen their overall nuclear security posture to include radioactive sources and border controls. In 2005, the IAEA, supported by experts from member states, conducted INSServ missions to Paraguay, Albania, and Namibia.

The IAEA Board of Governors made substantial strides in advancing the security of radioactive sources when it approved the revised Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (Code) in September 2003, and supplemental Guidance on the Export and Import of Radioactive Sources (Guidance) in September 2004. The United States took a leadership role in promoting the Code and Guidance as international guidance for controlling sources throughout their lifecycle. By the end of 2005, approximately 80 member states had written to the IAEA Director-General expressing their support for the Code.

The United States continued its longstanding support of the IAEA's Model Project, which promoted the development of domestic infrastructures for the long-term management of radioactive sources and other efforts through the Nuclear Security Action Plan to consolidate and protect vulnerable and orphan sources.

As a result of the joint U.S.-IAEA initiative in 2004, the Agency's appraisal tool, the Radiation Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources Infrastructure Appraisal (RaSSIA), for assessing the ability of states to manage radioactive sources was enhanced to incorporate security as well as safety. In 2005, the IAEA conducted 23 RaSSIAs under this new paradigm to help states ensure that radioactive sources are managed in a safe and secure manner.

Created in 2004, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative has worked in coordination and cooperation with the IAEA to accelerate removal of high-risk, vulnerable nuclear materials around the world, speed up the conversion of

research reactor fuel from high enriched uranium to low enriched uranium everywhere, accelerate the securing or removal of vulnerable radiological materials worldwide, and address security “gaps” for nuclear and radiological material not yet covered by existing threat reduction programs. In particular, the United States worked with the IAEA and others on the Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return Program, the Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors Program, and the Tripartite Initiative to secure high-risk radioactive sources.

The United States also continued to play a key role in the multi-year effort to achieve amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which was negotiated at IAEA Headquarters. That effort culminated on July 8, 2005, when a diplomatic conference of States Parties convened by the IAEA adopted an amendment to the Convention. Among other provisions, the amendment extended the scope of the physical protection obligations in the Convention by requiring each State Party to the amended Convention to establish, implement, and maintain an appropriate physical protection regime applicable to nuclear material and nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes under its jurisdiction. The amendment also extended the scope of cooperation among States Parties on physical protection matters and included new criminal offenses in the criminal regime established by the Convention. The amendment had not entered force by the end of 2005.

Finally, the IAEA continued its leadership role in strengthening international nuclear safety practices and standards. The IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security formulates and implements the IAEA’s program on nuclear safety to fulfill statutory requirements, in cooperation with other departments within the IAEA, including the Department of Technical Cooperation. As is the case with other IAEA programs, the United States was an active participant in and supporter of efforts to enhance nuclear safety in all member states. During 2005, the United States allocated funds for priority nuclear safety-related projects. These projects included upgrading the Regulatory Authority Information System, which addresses states’ need for a radioactive source inventory management system, and the continued work of the IAEA International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability.

The United States continued to support the development of a robust international response system for radiological emergencies, notably the establishment of the IAEA’s Incident and Emergency Center (IEC). The IEC provides the notification system for two conventions (the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency).

The IAEA remained active throughout 2005 in fostering international cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies and worked “to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity throughout the world.” The IAEA implemented a broad program of technical cooperation with over 90 of its member states, which was designed

to complement and promote the development objectives in recipient states, with particular attention to the least developed countries. The United States continued to support use of the sterile insect technique (using radiation to sterilize male insects), including for tsetse fly eradication efforts, and the IAEA's new radiotherapy initiative, the Program of Action on Cancer Therapy (PACT).

The IAEA regular budget for 2005 was \$281 million, of which \$276 million was assessed to member states. The United States was assessed approximately \$78 million. In addition, the United States remained the largest single contributor of voluntary support to the IAEA, contributing \$49.5 million to support technical and financial assistance to safeguards, nuclear safety and security projects, cost-free experts, the Technical Cooperation Fund, PACT, and U.S.-hosted training courses and fellowships.

In recent years, the United States has been disappointed by the decline in U.S. representation in the IAEA Secretariat. In 2005, Americans held 88 of the 766 positions that are subject to its geographical distribution guidelines, or 11.5 percent.

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

Established in 1944 by the Chicago Convention and becoming a UN specialized technical agency in 1947, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) fosters the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation. Today's air transport industry includes nearly 900 scheduled commercial air carriers operating about 21,500 aircraft worldwide. There are also some 22,000 business aircraft and many more owned by private pilots. Thus, the challenge of keeping the skies of the world safe and working to keep them operating efficiently is enormous. For more than 60 years, ICAO has been the forum for global civil aviation cooperation among its contracting states. It sets international standards and recommended practices for civil aviation, and offers technical assistance to enhance aviation safety and security worldwide. The United States strongly supports the work of ICAO.

ICAO, based in Montreal, Canada, has 189 members. The United States has consistently been elected to the ICAO Council and was re-elected to a three-year term at the 2004 ICAO triennial Assembly. Dr. Taïeb Chérif (Algeria) has been the Secretary-General since 2003. Dr. Assad Kotaite (Lebanon) continued as President of the Council of ICAO, a post he has held since 1976.

The last triennial ICAO Assembly was held from September 28 to October 8, 2004, with record attendance from 175 Contracting States and 36 observer delegations. The next Assembly will be held in 2007.

Ensuring aviation safety and security remained the primary goal of the organization in 2005, with several initiatives, including the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP) and the Universal Security Audit Program (USAP), endorsed by the Assembly designed to improve further the

integrity of the global aviation system. In the area of safety, these initiatives included the application of ICAO's successful USOAP to all safety-related provisions of the Annexes to the Chicago Convention. ICAO has accomplished this via a comprehensive systems approach. Launched in January 1999, USOAP consists of audits carried out by ICAO in all 189 contracting states to assess their level of compliance with ICAO's safety standards and to establish corrective measures. When the program was initiated, three safety-specific annexes were audited. In 2004, the audit process was expanded to cover 16 Annexes. To promote increased transparency, full audit reports are shared among member states. The United States has provided technical experts to serve as auditors as required. In 2005, 10 states were audited by the organization.

The Assembly requested greater sharing among contracting states of the results of the ICAO USAP, created to help identify and correct deficiencies in the implementation of security-related standards in airports. Aviation security audits were conducted on another 44 contracting states in 2005, for a total of 113 aviation security audits since the inception of the program. The United States provides more than a dozen auditors to this program who also serve as trainers in other activities. Short-term results from this program have been positive; however, sustained improvement requires focused attention to continuing problem areas. To that end, in 2005 ICAO initiated a coordinated assistance and development program to address deficiencies identified in the audits. By coordinating and sharing information through ICAO, the United States is more effective at prioritizing assistance work.

Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, ICAO developed an "Aviation Security Plan of Action" to strengthen aviation security worldwide. The plan adopted various U.S. proposals to enhance security, including hardened cockpit doors, new flight crew procedures, and the establishment of a program to audit states' compliance with ICAO security standards. To assist in implementation, ICAO developed seven aviation security-training packages and a global network of 10 aviation security-training centers. ICAO also established a voluntary funding mechanism to support the Universal Security Audit Program and to assist states in aviation security implementation and cooperation. The United States is a significant contributor to this fund, contributing over 25 percent of the fund's resources each year. In addition to funding, the United States had two full-time specialists seconded to ICAO in 2005 and numerous specialists who participated in training activity around the world.

In 2005, ICAO shifted its focus from developing new standards to assisting in the implementation of existing ones, and from detailed technical specifications to performance-based standards. ICAO especially accelerated the development of standards and guidance for ICAO's program to prevent Controlled Flight Into Terrain accidents, which are among the leading causes of aircraft accidents.

The Assembly called on contracting states to exercise strict and effective controls on the global movement and storage of man-portable defense systems while ensuring the destruction of existing units. The Assembly urged members to keep fully up to date with the security provisions of Annex 17 the Chicago Convention and, if not yet parties, to become parties to international conventions related to aviation security.

In 2004, the ICAO Council adopted the use of machine readable passports as a new standard in Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention. In 2005, ICAO began to update Document 9303, which detailed the specifications for machine readable and e-passports, to include the new, revised specifications of integrated biometric identification information, agreed to by ICAO in 2003. The United States served as a member of the Technical Advisory Group with responsibility for developing this material. The group met September 26–28, 2005. Additionally, in an effort to assist states with implementation of these new standards, ICAO hosted a Biometric Symposium on September 29–30 to encourage information sharing. In both the advisory group and at the symposium, the United States contributed technical expertise to the activity. ICAO agreed to serve as the supervisory authority for the Public Key Directory that will be used to help government authorities authenticate passports embedded with the electronic signature of the issuing authority. This service will be fully funded by governments issuing electronic passports. The United States is one such government.

ICAO is also involved with environmental issues. In 2005, the ICAO Council approved a recommendation made in early 2004 by the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) to establish new emissions standards for nitrogen oxides. The 2004 document altered the recommended levels to be 12 percent more stringent than the levels agreed to in 1999. ICAO also produced substantive guidance to assist states in implementing a balanced approach to noise management. This balanced approach is comprised of four principal elements: reduction of noise at the source; land use planning and management; noise abatement operational procedures; and operating restrictions on aircraft. Throughout 2005, CAEP continued to work on developing guidance for use of market-based options, including emission charges and emissions trading, to address aircraft emissions that will be discussed at the 2007 Assembly. In addition, in 2005, CAEP laid the groundwork in modeling and long-term technologies for tackling aviation's environmental impacts.

ICAO assessments are based on member countries' economic factors and relative importance in civil aviation, as measured by a number of factors, including amount of mileage flown. The maximum assessment of any member country is 25 percent. Member assessments for the calendar year 2005 ICAO budget totaled \$58.5 million. The U.S. share in 2005 was \$14.6 million, or 25 percent of the assessed budget. In 2005, the U.S. Government provided an additional \$992,000 in voluntary financial contributions for the Aviation Security Program.

U.S. citizens continued to be under-represented at ICAO in 2005, with Americans occupying only 13 of the 201 (6.5 percent) professional positions subject to equitable geographic distribution. In addition, several U.S. experts worked on detail on the ICAO staff, including in the area of aviation security programs.

## **International Health Organizations**

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

The World Health Organization (WHO), based in Geneva, Switzerland, was established in 1948 with the objective of “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.” In 2005, WHO worked in close partnership with its 192 member states and two associate members, many international organizations, over 180 nongovernmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 leading health-related institutions around the world designated as “WHO collaborating centers.” WHO representatives worked with health ministries in 142 countries as advisors and managers of technical cooperation programs.

During 2005, U.S. representatives participated in various WHO and WHO-related meetings, including those of the World Health Assembly; the WHO Executive Board; the four Regional Committees for the Americas, Western Pacific, Africa, and Europe; the Intergovernmental Working Group on the revision of the International Health Regulations; and the Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. The United States was also a participant in meetings conducted by the Program Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS, which is cosponsored by the WHO and nine other agencies.

Dr. Jong-Wook Lee (South Korea) served the third year of his five-year term as Director-General. Dr. Lee continued to focus the organization on achieving the health-related goals of the UN Millennium Declaration. Under Dr. Lee’s leadership, the focus throughout 2005 has been on decentralizing WHO’s work, renewing accountability and effectiveness at WHO, improving global disease surveillance and data management, tackling specific health issues and unmet challenges, and strengthening the WHO’s human resources.

At the end of 2005, WHO reviewed the results of its efforts to galvanize international support for the 3 by 5 Initiative, the goal of which was to treat 3 million people living with HIV/AIDS by 2005. Although WHO and its partners were unable to reach the goal of placing 3 million people on anti-retroviral therapy, approximately 1.3 million had obtained access to such treatment by the end of 2005. WHO asserted that the momentum of the 3 by 5 Initiative will lead to greater gains toward the goal of universal access to treatment in future years.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which the United States signed in May 2004, entered into force in 2005. The

first Conference of the Parties, the institution responsible for reviewing and facilitating effective implementation of the FCTC, was scheduled for early 2006.

Negotiations began in 2004 on the revision of the International Health Regulations (IHRs) with the second and third meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) taking place in February and May 2005. The IGWG agreed on an *ad referendum* text of the International Health Regulations just prior to the May 2005 World Health Assembly. The Assembly formally adopted the International Health Regulations (2005). The IHRs establish an international legal framework for States Parties to notify the WHO and effectively respond to public health emergencies of international concern. Upon entry into force in 2007, the IHRs, among other things, will obligate States Parties to develop, strengthen, and maintain their ability to detect, respond to, reduce, or eliminate the spread of public health emergencies of international concern, and to report in a timely way to WHO. The IHRs also will authorize the Director-General of the WHO to issue non-binding recommendations on measures that affected States Parties may take, including, if appropriate, restrictions on travel and commerce to and from affected areas. The United States joined in the consensus adoption of the IHRs and expects them to make a significant contribution towards strengthening international cooperation against global public health threats.

The 2005 World Health Assembly also addressed pandemic influenza preparedness and control. As a result of a U.S. initiative, the Assembly adopted a resolution that urged member states to develop and implement national plans for pandemic-influenza preparedness and response; develop and strengthen national surveillance and laboratory capacity; strengthen linkages between health, agriculture, and other pertinent authorities; support an international research agenda; and provide vaccines and antiviral drugs as necessary during a global pandemic. The resolution also asked the Director-General to strengthen influenza surveillance; assess the feasibility of using anti-viral medication stockpiles to contain an initial outbreak of influenza; evaluate the potential benefit of personal protection measures; and work closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other relevant UN organizations. The Assembly agreed to the WHO Director-General's proposal committing additional resources from the WHO Regular Budget to address avian influenza.

The Assembly also considered a variety of diverse but substantive topics such as the health-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, enhancement of laboratory biosafety, health action in crises and disasters, tuberculosis prevention and control, polio eradication, antimicrobial resistance, infant and young child nutrition, cancer prevention and control, the harmful use of alcohol, plan of action on aging, and eHealth, an initiative for accessing information and communication technologies for health. The Assembly supported the maintenance of the WHO Global Smallpox Vaccine Reserve, to which the United States is the largest contributor; this notwithstanding, South

Africa called for the immediate destruction of the authorized smallpox stocks held at the official repositories in the United States and the Russian Federation.

The Assembly did not accept a proposal for a new agenda item granting observer status for Taiwan. Unlike in 2004, when the issue was put to a vote in the Plenary, there was limited debate on the proposal, with the chair allowing no more than two countries to speak in favor of the proposal and two countries to speak against.

In 2005, the Assembly again took up the long-standing agenda item on “Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.” The draft resolution proposed by a number of Arab states included harsh condemnation of Israel. The United States stated its view that the resolution did not advance the health of the Palestinian people and interjected political issues into the debate of the Assembly that were unambiguously outside the mandate of WHO. The United States requested a roll-call vote; the resolution was adopted, with the United States and seven other countries voting against it, and a number of abstentions and absences.

On financial matters, following in-depth discussion at the Executive Board on the WHO Program Budget for 2006–2007, the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted the WHO Budget for 2006–2007 without protracted negotiations and with broad support. The WHA also adopted a new scale of assessments for 2006 and 2007. In 2005, the United States provided \$96.1 million (22 percent) to the WHO regular assessed budget, as well as approximately \$100 million in voluntary contributions.

There were more U.S. citizens than citizens of any other country in WHO professional posts. At the end of 2005, U.S. citizens held the senior posts of Assistant Director-General for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; senior advisor to the Director-General; Assistant Legal Counsel; Director of Internal Audit and Oversight; and Director of Security and Staff Services. In 2005, WHO had 1,571 posts subject to geographic distribution; of those, U.S. citizens held 176 posts, or 11.2 percent.

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

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) was established in 1965 pursuant to a World Health Organization resolution. The United States was a founding member of IARC. IARC is a leading cancer research institute that monitors global cancer occurrence, identifies causes of cancer, and develops scientific strategies for cancer control. The IARC Governing Council, comprising IARC members (of which the United States is one) and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, met at IARC headquarters in Lyon, France, on May 12–13, 2005. The Governing Council discussed IARC’s program of work in cancer prevention and its various collaborative research efforts, and took action on various administrative issues.

Dr. Peter Boyle (United Kingdom), a cancer epidemiologist and biostatistician, continued his second year as IARC Director.

U.S. regular budget contributions to IARC (based on a 9.88 percent assessment) were \$1.7 million in 2005. IARC had 52 professional posts; of those, four, or 7.7 percent, were held by U.S. citizens.

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

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) was established in 1902 as the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and is the world's oldest intergovernmental health organization. The United States has been a member since 1902. The Directing Council of the PAHO convened at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. on September 26–30, 2005. A number of officials from the United States, including U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt, participated in that meeting, as well as in meetings of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming in March and the PAHO Executive Committee in June. The United States served as Chair of the PAHO Executive Committee during 2005. The Directing Council discussed and adopted resolutions on pressing health issues, including HIV/AIDS, blood safety, tuberculosis, family and health, and renewal of Primary Health Care. The Council also adopted a resolution expressing condolences to the United States for the losses suffered in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and urging greater priority to reducing vulnerability of populations to major emergencies. Representatives of PAHO's 38 member states participated, mostly at the ministerial level.

Throughout 2005, the Director of PAHO, Dr. Mirta Roses (Argentina), continued to focus on the priorities of creating greater health equity for the poor, forging new alliances and strengthening regional solidarity, tackling the emerging health challenges in the Americas, and advocating for continued improvements in the region's health systems.

PAHO's strategies and work with countries of the Americas in 2005 focused on the importance of achieving the health-related development goals of the Millennium Declaration, including reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; strengthening preparedness for and response to disasters; providing access to safe drinking water; improving immunization coverage; and controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

In 2005, the United States paid over 59 percent of the PAHO budget. The scale of assessments coincides with that of the Organization of American States, with adjustments for the number of members. The United States provided \$57 million to the PAHO regular assessed budget, as well as voluntary contributions of approximately \$16.5 million. In 2005, PAHO had 470 professional posts. U.S. citizens filled 77, or 16.4 percent, of these posts.

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

The Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) began formal operations in 1996. Dr. Peter Piot (Belgium) has been the Executive Director

since its inception. The UNAIDS cosponsoring agencies are the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Development Program, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Population Fund, the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the International Labor Organization, the World Food Program, UN High Commission for Refugees, and the World Bank. UNAIDS also has a cooperation agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization. UNAIDS works in countries that are dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic, primarily through country-coordination theme groups that seek to mobilize all sectors to address AIDS.

The Program Coordinating Board (PCB) is the UNAIDS governing body and acts on all programmatic issues concerning policy, strategy, finance, monitoring, and evaluation. The membership of the PCB is comprised of 22 government representatives, distributed by region and elected from among the member states of the cosponsoring organizations. The term of membership on the PCB is three years, with approximately one-third of the membership replaced annually. The United States participated in the PCB as an elected member in 2005 and will serve on the PCB through 2007. The UNAIDS cosponsoring organizations participate fully in PCB deliberations and decision-making, but without the right to vote. Six of the 10 cosponsors may participate in the PCB at any one time, with the selection of participants decided on by the cosponsors. Five nongovernmental organizations are also invited to participate in PCB meetings, again, without the right to take part in the formal decision-making process or the right to vote.

The PCB met from June 27–29, 2005, in Geneva. The PCB endorsed a UNAIDS Policy Position Paper called, "Intensifying HIV Prevention"; approved the voluntarily funded \$320.5 million Unified Budget and Workplan for 2006–2007; and endorsed the recommendations of the Global Task Team to improve AIDS coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors. The PCB Decisions, Recommendations and Conclusions document reflected the U.S. opinion that AIDS program-based approaches must include both parallel financing and pooled funding. The document also included language indicating that the United States does not fund needle and syringe programs because such programs are inconsistent with current U.S. law and policy, which prioritizes the eradication of illicit drug abuse and considers needle and syringe programs as counter to this objective. The United States continues to be strongly supportive of UNAIDS' work.

In 2005, UNAIDS continued to play an active role in promoting WHO's global target to provide 3 million people living with HIV/AIDS in low- and middle-income countries with antiretroviral treatment by the end of 2005. The number of people on antiretroviral treatment increased from 700,000 to 1.3 million people by the end of 2005. Although the global community did not reach the WHO and UNAIDS target, the initiative clearly demonstrated that administration of antiretroviral drugs in resource-limited settings is feasible. The United States supported the global effort to increase

the number of individuals on treatment through its financial contributions to UNAIDS; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and bilaterally through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, as well as through the U.S. strong political commitment to advancing access to AIDS treatment around the world.

UNAIDS also worked with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (the Fund), an independent, non-UN organization, during 2005. Along with WHO, UNAIDS serves as an *ex officio* member of the Board of the Fund. UNAIDS focused on providing advice to countries seeking assistance in preparing funding proposals and submitting them to the Global Fund. In 2005, through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control, the United States provided \$2 million to UNAIDS to provide technical assistance to Global Fund grantees. The countries eligible for assistance under this agreement are Thailand, India, Malawi, Senegal, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The UNAIDS core budget for 2005 was \$135.3 million, comprised completely of voluntary contributions. The United States continued to be among the major donors to UNAIDS and provided approximately 20 percent (\$27.1 million) to the 2005 core budget. The United States also provided an additional \$5.4 million to UNAIDS in extra-budgetary funds during the 2004–2005 biennium.

In 2005, UNAIDS had 179 professional posts; of those, 13 posts, or 7.3 percent, including that of Director of Evaluation, were held by U.S. citizens.

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

The International Labor Organization (ILO), founded in 1919, has a mandate to advance the working conditions of men and women worldwide. The organization promotes respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, such as freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, prohibitions on forced labor and child labor and non-discrimination in employment. It also seeks to create greater employment opportunities; enhance social protection; and strengthen social dialogue among governments, employers, and workers, with the goal of contributing to poverty alleviation and increased social stability around the world.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the ILO has 178 member states. Juan Somavia (Chile) was elected Director-General of the ILO in 1999 and re-elected to a second five-year term that began in March 2004. Representatives of workers' and employers' organizations participate on an equal basis with government representatives on the Governing Body, the ILO's executive board, and at the annual International Labor Conference held in June 2005. This tripartite structure is unique to the ILO.

The ILO's activities and programs serve key U.S. interests by seeking to increase global respect for democracy and human rights. Further, the ILO

has helped advance U.S. interests on priority issues in the areas of freedom of association, prohibition of forced labor, security concerns, eradication of child labor, programs on HIV/AIDS in the workplace, and technical assistance for key countries and regions (Afghanistan, China, Iraq, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East).

As one of the 10 countries of “chief industrial importance,” the United States has a permanent government seat on the ILO’s 56-member Governing Body. In addition, a U.S. worker representative (usually from the AFL-CIO) and a U.S. employer representative (from the U.S. Council for International Business) hold seats on the Governing Body. They speak and vote independently of the U.S. Government.

The ILO focuses international attention on cases of abuse of basic worker rights and strives for elimination of those abuses. For example, the ILO is engaged in ongoing efforts to achieve the elimination of forced labor in Burma, which an ILO Commission of Inquiry in 1998 found to be “widespread and systematic.” In 2005, the ILO cited Belarus, Burma, China, Colombia, and Venezuela for violations of fundamental trade union rights and the principle of freedom of association.

The ILO plays a key role in combating exploitative child labor worldwide, a U.S. priority. In 2005, the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) removed or prevented more than 160,000 children from subjection to exploitative work through the provision of educational and training opportunities in ongoing projects funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. Through these projects, IPEC also increased the capacity of 39 countries to address child labor, including improvements in the countries’ legal frameworks that reflect international child labor standards; the adoption or implementation of programs or policies to combat the worst forms of child labor; mainstreaming of child labor concerns into relevant development, social and anti-poverty policies and programs; and/or establishment of a child labor monitoring mechanism. Since its establishment in 1992, IPEC has received from donor governments and organizations over \$350 million, with annual expenditures now running at \$55 to 70 million. Projects to combat exploitative child labor are located in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

In 2005, the ILO had technical assistance programs in place or under development in several countries of vital concern to the United States. The ILO continued to work with Iraqi Labor Ministry officials, business leaders, and trade unionists in discussions about implementation of the new Iraqi labor code (developed with ILO assistance), enhancing the capabilities of the reformed Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, generating employment, and strengthening employment services. The ILO has been instrumental in assisting U.S. trading partners in Central America, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates to establish labor codes and practices in conformity with its core principles of workers’ rights as a precondition to Free Trade Agreements with

the United States. In China, the ILO sponsored anti-trafficking and mine safety programs.

In calendar year 2005, the ILO's regular budget was approximately \$287 million. The U.S. assessment for the ILO was about \$64 million, representing 22 percent of the ILO's regular budget funded by assessed contributions. The United States also contributed \$40 million to IPEC.

At the end of 2005, the ILO had 643 professional posts subject to geographic distribution, 86 of which were held by U.S. citizens (13.4 percent compared with 13.8 percent for 2004).

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

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) principal objectives are to foster international cooperation on technical matters affecting international shipping and to achieve the highest practicable standards for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. The IMO develops conventions and treaties on international shipping, facilitates international maritime trade, and provides technical assistance in maritime matters to developing countries. It also develops standards and practices to protect against oil spills and pollution from hazardous and noxious cargo and ship waste, ballast, and emissions.

The IMO, headquartered in London, is governed by the Assembly and Council. The United States has been elected to the 40-member Council ever since the creation of the IMO in 1948 and was again re-elected in November 2005 to another two-year term. Efthimios Mitropoulos (Greece) is the Secretary-General of the IMO. His initial term of four years will extend until 2007. There are 166 full IMO members and three associate members (the Faroe Islands, Hong Kong, and Macao). East Timor and Zimbabwe joined the IMO in 2005.

At U.S. urging, maritime security moved to the top of IMO's agenda following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. In 2002, the IMO approved amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to enhance maritime security as well as a complementary International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. The United States proposed most of the adopted amendments, which parallel U.S. domestic maritime security regulations. The SOLAS and ISPS amendments consist of both voluntary and mandatory provisions. The amendments require ships and port facilities to develop and maintain security plans and to designate security officers to ensure that the plans are fully implemented. Ships are also required to carry documents on their recent activities, ownership, and control. Furthermore, the amendments mandate a ship-to-shore system to alert authorities to security incidents. Most significantly, the IMO standards enable states to use their existing port authority to verify that ships comply with IMO security regulations and to take appropriate measures in response to any deficiencies found, including the

denial of port entry. As a port state, the United States continued to use this authority in 2005 to enhance maritime security.

The SOLAS amendments and the ISPS Code entered into force on July 1, 2004. This marked the high point in a period of intense activity throughout the industry as all sectors—port authorities and operators, ship owners and operators, and governments and administrations—worked to implement the new measures as quickly and as effectively as possible. Figures made available by IMO in November 2005 indicated that compliance was close to 100 percent. The task now is to enhance the level and quality of compliance in every country. To this end, the IMO established a trust fund to provide technical assistance to countries on maritime security. During 2005, the United States contributed almost \$100,000 to the fund to provide technical assistance to countries on maritime security.

As part of the international community's continuing response to the threat of international terrorism, the IMO held a diplomatic conference in October to adopt two protocols. These protocols will respectively amend the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (the IMO SUA instruments), and which will complement the SOLAS and ISPS Code, practical measures already in force. Among other things, the 2005 protocols expand the scope of offences in the IMO SUA instruments to address acts involving the use and transport of biological, chemical, and nuclear materials; to provide for the first time a comprehensive regime for the boarding of foreign flag ships in international waters; and to provide an enhanced basis for bringing to justice persons who organize, direct, or engage in a conspiracy related to the commission of offences covered under the IMO SUA instruments.

IMO worked to facilitate protection of shipping lanes of strategic importance. An example is the IMO's initiative to enhance the security, safety, and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, which have been subject to attacks by pirates. Any serious disruption to the flow of maritime traffic through the Straits would have a widespread and far-reaching detrimental effect, presenting ships with a long detour and, without doubt, higher freight rates and costlier goods and commodities would ensue. In September 2005, IMO sponsored a conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, consisting of representatives of Malacca Straits littoral states, Straits users, and other concerned parties, including industry. This meeting began an on-going process of cooperation between diverse interests to combat piracy as well as to enhance environmental protection and maritime safety in this vital waterway.

The IMO, strongly urged by the United States, adopted a plan in November 2005 to undertake audits of countries' effectiveness in implementing IMO global shipping standards, to include the ISPS Code. The IMO Member State Voluntary Audit Scheme will help promote maritime

safety, security, and environmental protection by assessing how effectively member states implement and enforce relevant IMO Convention standards and by providing them with feedback and advice on their current performance. While the audits will initially be voluntary, they are expected ultimately to become mandatory. Ideally, 33 countries will be audited each year on a five-year rotating basis. In addition, the Scheme should help identify where capacity-building activities would have the greatest effect and target appropriate, relevant actions; assist member states to improve their own capacity to put the applicable instruments into practice; and inform member states of generic lessons learned so that the benefits are widely shared. Moreover, the results of the learning experience could be systematically fed back into the regulatory process at IMO to help make measurable improvements in the effectiveness of the international regulatory framework of shipping.

Assessments to IMO are based chiefly on registered shipping tonnage. Major open-registry countries (those that register vessels but do not necessarily own them) are among the largest contributors. Panama, Liberia, Cyprus, and the Bahamas are some of the major open registry states that pay large IMO assessments. The U.S. contribution was approximately \$1.4 million toward IMO's 2005 assessed budget of approximately \$38.3 million. In 2005, U.S. citizens held four of the 97 professional staff positions.

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

Established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) serves as a forum for governments and the private sector to facilitate the operation of international telecommunication networks and services. In 2005, there were 189 member states and over 700 sector and associate members in the ITU. Yoshio Utsumi (Japan) is Secretary-General of the ITU. ITU activities touch on areas of fundamental importance for U.S. national and commercial security, particularly those related to radio spectrum allocation, setting of global telecommunication standards, and consideration of global telecommunication policy.

The 46-member ITU Council, of which the United States is a member, is elected at plenipotentiary conferences, and is comprised of representatives from five regions—the Americas, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia. The Council meets annually between Plenipotentiary Conferences to address management and other issues. The Geneva-based ITU held its annual Council meeting July 12–22, 2005. The United States was particularly interested this year in the ongoing efforts to reform the ITU financial system as a means to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the Union, and in the manner by which the ITU—as Secretariat for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)—would fully finance and coordinate the Phase II WSIS held in Tunis in November 2005. For the past several years, the United States led a highly successful reform

effort in the ITU that resulted in the ITU increasingly operating on a sound financial basis.

Unlike most other UN agencies, the ITU is funded by a system of voluntary contributory units rather than assessed contributions. At the 2005 Council, the United States successfully limited the increase in the base contributory unit for the 2006–2007 biennial period to less than one percent of the current rate (\$263,477, or approximately \$2,487 above its 2005 level). The United States pays 30 contributory units annually.

In addition, the 2005 session of the ITU Council concluded with an agreement to extend and clarify the mandate of a Canadian-led Council Group on Financial Regulations and to establish a Council Working Group for the Elaboration of the Draft ITU Strategic Plan and Draft ITU Financial Plan for the period 2008–2011. The Council Group was instructed to more closely link the ITU's Strategic, Operational, and Financial Plans for the next quadrennial period and the United States stressed the importance of coordination with the more management-focused work of the Council Oversight Group.

As a result of extensive discussion about cost recovery allocation mechanisms and income from satellite network filings during and after the 2004 Council session, the 2005 Council adopted a new satellite network filing cost recovery mechanism. The United States successfully negotiated a cost recovery mechanism that provided greater predictability of costs and fairer pricing.

The Telecommunication Development (D) Sector provides opportunities for U.S. Government and industry participation as it focuses on expanding telecommunications networks and services in the developing world. In March 2002, the ITU held its quadrennial World Telecommunication Development Conference in Istanbul. The Conference produced a four-year Action Plan that guided the work of the D Sector membership, and of the ITU Development Bureau leadership and staff. Through the Istanbul Action Plan, developed and developing countries worked together to improve telecommunications and boost economic growth in developing, and especially least developed, countries. At the 2005 Council, the United States pushed for greater transparency and accountability regarding the projects undertaken, with special efforts to complete or terminate projects that had not moved forward in the past year. The Sector also increased private-sector participation in, and funding for, national and regional workshops to build public-private partnerships aimed at developing infrastructure and improving telephone density. The resulting effort coincided with ITU and industry programs related to WSIS, resulting in ITU cooperation with companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, and Cisco Systems and the Governments of Afghanistan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, and Rwanda, among others, to help bring information and communication technology skills to underserved communities and provide cheaper and more reliable communication to remote areas.

At the 2005 Council, member states agreed that the ITU should play a role in the implementation and follow-up to WSIS within its core competencies. The ITU effectively carried out its role as Secretariat to the WSIS and in that capacity raised sufficient funds to cover all expenses and to repay to the ITU money advanced to the WSIS in 2004. Phase II of the WSIS held in Tunis in November 2005 was very successful. The United States achieved its primary objectives in the documents adopted by consensus at WSIS Phase II of maintaining the status quo in terms of the current management of the Internet and the Internet's Domain Name System and in reaffirming support for human rights, freedom of expression and the press, and the free flow of information.

ITU's 2005 budget was approximately \$84.8 million. The United States contributed approximately \$7.6 million in 2005. In 2005, of 282 ITU personnel positions subject to geographic distribution, U.S. citizens occupied 16, or 5.7 percent of the total.

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

The UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established in 1945 with the primary objective of contributing to peace and security worldwide by promoting global collaboration through education, science, and culture. Since rejoining UNESCO on October 1, 2003, the United States continues to promote U.S. priorities at UNESCO in each of the Organization's five sectors: Education, Culture, Communication and Information, Natural Sciences, and Social and Human Sciences. By promoting collaboration among nations, UNESCO strives to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. Priority programs foster and defend the free flow of ideas and open access to education for all; build understanding of democratic principles and practice; promote scientific knowledge; and protect the cultural and natural heritage of humankind. UNESCO, which is headquartered in Paris, has 191 member states and has been led since 1999 by Director-General Koichiro Matsuura (Japan). He was reappointed for a four-year term in October 2005.

The Executive Board, one of UNESCO's three constitutional bodies, consists of 58 member states with four-year terms of office. It examines the program of work and corresponding budget proposals, and ensures the effective and rational execution of the program by the Director-General. As a member of the Board, with a term that expires in 2008, the United States participated in the semiannual Board Sessions in Paris in April and September 2005. The Board continued negotiations on two instruments, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. The United States engaged actively in negotiating both of these instruments. In September, the Executive Board recommended that the General Conference, which met in October,

consider the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

The Executive Board examined the Director-General's preliminary proposals concerning UNESCO's Program and Budget for 2008–2009. The Board also recommended that the Director-General temporarily stop creating normative instruments, put more effort into implementing education for all, and implement a review of the Natural and Social and Human Science programs.

U.S. priorities at the Executive Board were to maintain budget discipline within UNESCO and focus UNESCO program efforts and budget resources on the areas of literacy, capacity building in science and engineering, and the preservation of cultural objects. In particular, the United States was pleased with UNESCO efforts in the area of education.

In 2005, UNESCO saw several successes in the area of education, a main priority for the United States. The United States worked with other member states to promote results-based education programs at the country level, where they will do the most good toward achieving the goals of education for all. The United States also worked closely with UNESCO in launching the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment, a literacy strategic framework with the goal of achieving concrete, measurable results in 34 countries with the highest rates of illiteracy. U.S. literacy experts were included in the preparation of this strategy, as a way to help ensure that U.S. research and experience in this critical area could be shared with others, including the promotion of an inter-generational, mother/child approach to literacy programming.

At the General Conference in October, the United States was able to join consensus on the Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights by heading off an intense effort to include a number of subjects that were inappropriate for the declaration. The United States, however, voted against the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions after it became clear that the Convention was going to be used to implement trade protections for "cultural expressions." Negotiations on the Convention, which was heavily promoted by France and Canada, were set in motion by the adoption of a related Declaration before the U.S. reentry to UNESCO in 2003. In addition to concerns about the Convention's potential effect on trade, the United States also expressed concerns about the impact of the Convention on the free flow of information. The vote on adoption of the Convention was 148 to two (U.S. and Israel), with four abstentions. Thirty countries must deposit their instruments of ratification with UNESCO for it to enter into force.

The UNESCO regular budget for 2005 was approximately \$305 million; the U.S. assessment was \$76.7 million. Since 1986, the United States has also regularly made voluntary contributions to UNESCO. The 2005 contribution totaled \$837,000 and was used to support UNESCO-related

international educational, scientific, cultural, and communications activities considered to be in the U.S. national interest. In 2005, of the 732 positions subject to geographic distribution, Americans held 30 posts, or 4.1 percent.

## **UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)**

The UN General Assembly established the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) in 1955 to provide continuous review and evaluation of the effects of ionizing radiation on humans and their environment. Governments and international organizations around the world rely on UNSCEAR evaluations for estimating radiological risk, establishing protection and safety standards, and regulating radioactive materials, informing policy decisions, and targeting international assistance programs. UNSCEAR's work is of significant interest to many U.S. agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Energy.

The 53rd session met in Vienna, on September 26–30, 2005. The U.S. delegation included advisors from academia, the private sector, and the U.S. Government. The Scientific Committee reviewed 12 scientific documents on topics that included sources-to-effects assessment of radon in homes and workplaces; exposures of workers and the public from various sources of radiation; the effects of ionizing radiation on the immune system; epidemiological evaluation and dose response of diseases that might be related to radiation exposure; new epidemiological studies of radiation and cancer and health effects from the Chernobyl accident; radioecology; and medical radiation exposures. Deliberations of the Scientific Committee resulted in a path forward for the upcoming year. As some of the documents are at a much more advanced stage than others, the Scientific Committee anticipates that a report to the General Assembly with scientific annexes will be made in 2006, with a second set of annexes to follow in 2007.

Increased communication and coordination between UNSCEAR and the UN Environment Program (UNEP) in 2003 partially restored UNSCEAR funding to 1994 nominal funding levels. However, funding issues continued to plague UNSCEAR in 2005. The United States encouraged UNEP and the UNSCEAR Secretariat to strengthen communication and coordination. This engagement included discussions between the U.S. Permanent Representative in Nairobi and the UNEP Executive Director and U.S. input to the 2006–2007 UN budget process. In the proposed program budget report for the 2006–2007 biennium, the UN's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions noted that, in lieu of additional resources in 2006–2007, UNEP would provide the needed resources through redeployment to ensure that the Scientific Committee fulfills its mandate. In light of ongoing and future U.S. and international efforts to prevent, manage, and mitigate radiological incidents, it is in the U.S. interest that UNSCEAR continue to

operate as an effective, credible, and independent scientific body and that its findings are widely disseminated.

UNSCEAR has a very small secretariat staff in Vienna, composed of a full-time scientist or secretary. UNSCEAR's budget for 2005 was \$465,500 and is funded from the UN regular budget. The U.S. assessment was approximately \$102,410.

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

The Universal Postal Union (UPU), with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, facilitates the efficient operation of postal services across national borders and serves as a forum for regulatory and customer issues related to postal and express delivery markets. Edouard Dayan (France) was elected Director-General of the UPU in 2004. The United States joined the UPU at its founding in 1874. In 2005, the UPU had 190 members. In recent years the UPU has become noted for strict fiscal discipline, advances in strategic planning, measurement of the service performance of individual postal administrations, and innovative voluntary organizations known as "cooperatives" which have brought to the UPU corporate-like structures that feature weighted voting, targeted business plans, and boards whose directors are elected in their individual capacity, as opposed to the country being elected.

Throughout 2005, U.S. policy goals focused on building a system of terminal dues (inter-administration payments for the handling and delivery of inbound international mail) based as closely as possible on costs; improving existing methodologies for measuring the performance of postal administrations, airlines and contractors in transporting and delivering international mail; and solidifying private-sector participation in the UPU.

For the first time, the United States was elected as the chair of the Postal Operations Council (POC) in 2004. At this session, the U.S. delegation set a clear strategic direction for the Council. The United States also retained leadership of two critical bodies: the Postal Security Action Group and the Standards Board. The United States also served in key positions in the Telematics Cooperative, the Express Mail Service Cooperative, and the Quality of Service Fund Board of Trustees. Due to UPU regulations, the United States cannot serve on the Council of Administration during the 2005–2008 period.

Also at the 2004 session, the POC considered nearly 400 proposals to amend the UPU Letter and Post Regulations. Eleven of the 13 proposals submitted by the United States were adopted, while the remaining two were referred for study. The successful U.S. proposals concerned mandatory use of barcodes on parcels; a standard universal mailbag; regulations governing inquiries; and confirmation of receipt of preadvised letter and parcel dispatches through electronic messages. Another U.S. proposal of importance to the nation's scientific community adopted at this session lifted a UPU

prohibition against mailing fruit flies (of the genus *Drosophila melanogaster*) across national borders. These flies are used worldwide for critical biomedical research on the genetic causes of major human diseases, and the ability to include them in international postal items is expected to accelerate this research considerably.

Since 2005 was the first year of the quadrennial Congress period, the U.S. delegations to both the POC and the Council of Administration contributed heavily to organizing the structures of the working groups formed by these Councils and drafting four-year work plans. In addition to the groups already cited, the U.S. delegation showed a keen interest in those groups engaged in strategic planning, further reform of the UPU, refinement of legal definitions in the UPU Acts, customs clearance, World Trade Organization issues as they relate to cross-border postal traffic, as well as improvement and growth of parcel post and direct mail.

The UPU Consultative Committee, which was formed by the 2004 Bucharest Congress and whose members included private-sector associations of mailers, express delivery firms, trade unions, equipment manufacturers, and other postal stakeholders, launched an ambitious four-year work program focusing on such issues as customs clearance, trade matters, and projects of particular interest to large mailers, such as cross-border address forwarding and access models. The Chair of the Committee, Charles Prescott of the Direct Marketing Association, is American. The UPU is one of the few UN specialized agencies that allows participation by private sector representatives at its meetings.

The UPU operates under a biennial budget. The UPU Congress approved an overall budget ceiling of \$116.5 million for the next two biennial UPU budgets (through 2008). The UPU budget for 2005–2006 is about \$56.3 million. The UPU approved budget has remained level since 1998.

Member country contributions to the UPU are determined according to “contribution units” that each country volunteers to pay. The United States subscribes to 50 contribution units, which amounts to approximately 5.7 percent of the UPU budget. The cost to the United States was approximately \$1.6 million in 2005. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service made extrabudgetary contributions to UPU in 2005 amounting to \$397,000 including the salary of a postal security consultant seconded to the UPU staff.

The UPU staff is comprised of 97 professionals. At the end of 2005, four (4.1 percent) of these professionals were U.S. citizens, including the chef de cabinet.

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

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) promotes the protection of intellectual property rights throughout the world through facilitating cooperation among member states and collaboration with other international organizations. Established by the WIPO Convention in 1967, it

became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1974. WIPO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and operates several offices around the world, including in New York, Washington, D.C., and Brussels, Belgium. Dr. Kamil Idris (Sudan) is the Director-General. There are 183 members of the WIPO Convention (Afghanistan joined in 2005). The United States is currently a party to 14 WIPO treaties. Fees for service generate more than 90 percent of WIPO's revenue, and fees paid by U.S. nationals comprise approximately 40 percent of WIPO's fee revenue.

WIPO administers various treaties that deal with the legal and administrative aspects of intellectual property, which include patents, trademarks, and copyrights. The two principal treaties are the Paris and Berne Conventions (with, in 2005, 169 and 159 members, respectively). WIPO also administers 20 multilateral "unions" (the treaty administering organs).

The General Assemblies of WIPO Unions were held in Geneva from September 26–October 5, 2005. The WIPO General Assembly, of which the United States is a member, addressed many important issues facing the organization, including efforts to strengthen accountability and oversight within the organization, conclude a treaty to update international intellectual property standards for broadcasting in the information age, establish a constructive framework in which to assess how to further integrate a development dimension into WIPO's work, and develop a possible work program for the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP).

The United States achieved several major objectives in line with the U.S. vision of UN reform. The Assembly adopted a balanced, results-based budget for the first time in several years. The budget included no fee increases or changes in member contributions, both major U.S. goals. The United States, working with like-minded countries, gained approval of the following two decisions to strengthen accountability and oversight and improve internal management and transparency: adoption of an Internal Audit Charter and approval of the creation of an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will oversee the desk-to-desk audit recommended by the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and will also provide significant oversight of a new building construction project (valued at over \$100 million). The Assembly stipulated that an external manager must be engaged for the construction project to prevent a repeat of significant cost overruns that occurred with the previous WIPO construction project. Modifications to staff regulations also tightened rules on conflict of interest and financial disclosure.

The United States pushed strongly for implementation of the other JIU recommendations, including limiting the Director-General's ability to transfer funds, to make personal promotions, and to fill positions through direct recruitment. However, those reforms were referred to the WIPO Program and Budget Committee for further review. In 2005, at the strong urging of a group of like-minded states led by the United States, WIPO engaged independent auditors Ernst & Young to investigate allegations of

fraud and mismanagement, with their report to be delivered in early 2006. A separate Swiss investigation into possible criminal wrongdoing is ongoing.

The General Assembly extended the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore, of which the United States is an active member, through 2006–2007. The IGC will continue its current mandate to “focus, in particular, on a consideration of the international dimension of those questions, without prejudice to the work pursued in other fora and that no outcome of this work is excluded, including the possible development of an international instrument or instruments.”

After much discussion, the 2005 WIPO General Assembly also agreed to enhance the development dimension in WIPO’s work by establishing a Provisional Committee on Proposals Related to a WIPO Development Agenda (PCDA) to accelerate and complete discussions on proposals related to enhancement of a WIPO development agenda. The PCDA will meet twice in 2006 to complete its work. In its interventions on this proposal during the General Assembly, the United States emphasized that WIPO’s activities already included a strong development component, and that the United States had previously proposed an Internet-based WIPO Partnership Program. Utilizing existing WIPO resources, the Partnership Program would assure that information on WIPO’s many ongoing development activities was made more readily available to developing countries.

The Assembly also instituted a process to move forward on discussions on substantive patent law harmonization. An informal open forum will be held followed by an informal meeting of the SCP to agree on a work program for the SCP, taking into account the forum discussions. The Assembly also called for two meetings of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights before the next Assembly to finalize a draft Broadcasters Treaty text. If successful, a diplomatic conference on that treaty will be convened by the 2006 Assembly. The United States strongly supported both of these measures as a means to move forward on discussions in WIPO that had been stalled for some time.

In 2005, the portion of WIPO’s budget assessed to member states was \$13.8 million; the U.S. share of that assessed WIPO budget was 6.59 percent, or \$909,398. The U.S. assessed contribution represents less than one percent of WIPO’s total revenue, although, as noted above, approximately 40 percent of WIPO’s revenue comes from filing fees paid by U.S. nationals, the largest group of WIPO supporters. Of 357 positions subject to geographic distribution, Americans occupied 21, or six percent.

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

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), based in Geneva, Switzerland, facilitates international cooperation in meteorology, hydrology, climate, and other related matters. As weather and climate transcend

geopolitical boundaries, international cooperation in meteorological data collection and exchange is essential to U.S. economic interests. Through coordination of a network of member-operated observation stations, telecommunications systems, and forecasting centers, WMO facilitates the rapid exchange of standardized, quality-controlled meteorological data, weather forecasts, and disaster warnings. WMO provides essential data to the U.S. National Weather Service for use in the development of weather forecasts and warnings, better enabling the United States to protect life and property from severe weather events, and furthering its economic interests in, among other things, the aviation, shipping, and agricultural sectors. WMO also sponsors capacity-building initiatives aimed at improving local data collection and forecasting capacities, thus enhancing the accuracy and timely delivery of meteorological data and services on a global scale. Secretary-General Michel Jarraud (France) was re-elected to a four-year term in 2003.

The WMO membership includes 181 states and six member territories, all of which maintain their own meteorological services and collect meteorological data within their domain. The WMO governing structure includes a Congress and Executive Council. The Congress, which meets every four years and is comprised of member states and territories, establishes the budget and overall priorities for the organization. The Executive Council meets every year and oversees administration of the budget and addresses related technical and policy issues. The Council is comprised of 37 members, the President and Vice-President of the organization, six presidents of the regional associations, and 27 directors of the members' national meteorological or hydrometeorological services. The U.S. representative to the WMO was re-elected to the WMO Executive Council in 2003 for a four-year term.

The United States participated in the 2005 Executive Council session and ensured that WMO operations were consistent with U.S. interests in meteorology, hydrology, and climate, and supportive of the newly created Group on Earth Observations. The Council reviewed administration of the WMO budget and established technical and policy priorities for the following year. The United States succeeded in maintaining a strong emphasis on improved internal oversight, management reform, and adoption of results-based budgeting. In 2005, the WMO strengthened its internal oversight functions and increased transparency in its accounts. Work was also initiated on development of a new Long Term Plan, with updated goals and strategies for consideration and possible adoption by the WMO next Congress, which will meet in 2007.

In 2005, WMO continued to facilitate meteorological data collection and exchange through key programs such as the World Weather Watch and the Global Climate Observing System. These programs provided essential data for numerical weather modeling and made it possible for WMO members, including the United States, to provide weather-related services at costs far

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below those that would be incurred if each member acted alone. Also in 2005, WMO upgraded the Global Telecommunications Service, which served as the communications backbone for exchange of weather data, forecasts, and warnings, including tsunami and hurricane alerts. WMO also supported education, training, and technical cooperation programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of countries to provide weather forecasts for their own populations and to contribute to global data collection and forecasting efforts.

Through the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Program (VCP), the United States supported key projects and provided equipment, training, and services to WMO members requiring assistance. In 2005, the U.S. contribution funded, among other things, natural disaster prediction and preparedness initiatives, including support for the development of a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean, and improvement of flood forecasting capabilities in the Americas.

In 2005, WMO regular budget spending was approximately \$51.5 million, or one-quarter of the 2004–2007 quadrennial budget of \$205 million. Total member assessments in 2005 amounted to \$50.4 million, of which the U.S. share, at 21.6 percent, amounted to approximately \$10.9 million. The United States also contributed approximately \$1.9 million to the VCP. Out of the 124 professional-level staff subject to geographical distribution, only six were American citizens (4.8 percent). Notably, WMO hired American citizens to several key posts in 2005, including Director of the World Weather Watch and Chief of the Tropical Cyclone Program.

