

Part 3

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. It employs more than 3,600 staff members, about 1,600 professional and 2,000 general service staff, and currently maintains five regional offices, nine sub-regional offices, five liaison offices, and 74 country offices.

Dr. Jacques Diouf (Senegal) has been Director-General of FAO since 1994. He was re-elected to a third term starting in January 2006. FAO's highest policy-making body, the biennial Conference, comprises all 189 FAO member nations plus one member organization, the European Community. The Conference determines FAO policy and approves FAO's regular program of work and its budget. Each biennial Conference elects a 49-member Council that meets at least three times between regular Conference sessions to make recommendations to the Conference on budget and policy issues. The North American region, which comprises the United States and Canada, is allocated two seats on the Council and one seat each on FAO's Program, Finance, and Constitutional and Legal Matters Committees. In 2006, the United States held the North American seat on the Finance, and the Constitutional and Legal Matters Committees. Canada held the North American seat on the Program Committee. The United States also 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. Government priority. At its November 2005 session, the Council agreed on the terms of reference and oversight mechanisms for the evaluation. In February 2006, the Committee of the FAO Council charged with oversight of the IEE approved the selection of the core team of evaluators and decided that the IEE would formally begin on March 13, 2006. Completion of the evaluation report is expected in time for the November 2007 Council and Conference.

In 2006, the United States continued to stress more efficient use of scarce resources and greater program effectiveness, and 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. The United States also worked actively to promote U.S. candidates for key posts.

Of particular importance to the United States are the internationally recognized standards for food safety and plant health developed by the joint FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) 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 2006, the United States continued to work with other countries in the FAO policy-making bodies to ensure greater financial support from the overall FAO budget for Codex and IPPC.

The United States also values FAO's expertise in agricultural commodity and trade issues, and continued to press in 2006 for more active roles by the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the Consultative Committee on Surplus Disposal. The United States continues 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 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture entered into force in June 2004. The United States signed the treaty in 2002, but has not yet ratified it. The treaty establishes a transparent system to facilitate access to plant genetic resources and to share the benefits. In 2006, states parties to the treaty negotiated and adopted a "material transfer agreement," which sets terms for access and benefit sharing, and which is acceptable to the United States.

FAO has a mandate, in collaboration with the 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 launched a Global Strategy for the prevention and control of avian influenza that addressed country-level activities as well as regional and international coordination. FAO's multi-faceted approach includes: strengthening intelligence about the disease and emergency preparedness; examining the role of migratory birds in the spread of avian influenza; enhancing field surveillance, laboratory capabilities, and global avian influenza surveillance and early warning capabilities; analyzing the social and economic consequences of both the disease and its control; and advising governments and building capacities on disease surveillance and control.

In 2006, the United States helped FAO to launch a Crisis Management Center (CMC) to coordinate multinational rapid response to avian influenza and other diseases. The CMC, a facility run by the FAO in close collaboration with OIE, provides animal disease analysis and information and deploys international resources to prevent and contain dangerous animal diseases. The United States provided funds to FAO for the center and seconded four veterinary specialists to it. As of December 2006, the United States had committed \$434 million to support international response and preparedness for avian and pandemic influenza, making the United States the largest contributor; and had provided assistance to more than

79 countries, WHO, FAO, OIE, and regional organizations to fight avian influenza and to prepare for a possible pandemic.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957, serves critical U.S. interests in nuclear nonproliferation, 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 holds regular meetings in Vienna five times a year: March, June, twice in September, and 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 approving the recommendations and decisions of 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 September 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.

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, the Six Parties unanimously adopted a Joint Statement in which 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. The other parties agreed to economic cooperation, energy assistance, and steps toward normalization of relations, provided that matters of bilateral concern are addressed, including human rights and North Korea's missile programs. Subsequently North Korea withdrew from the Six-Party process and said it would not rejoin the talks so long as the United States pursued what North Korea called a "hostile policy." Despite continued efforts to bring all parties back to the table, North Korea had not agreed to return by the end of 2006. 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 previously in covert efforts to conduct undeclared research in several enrichment

technologies, including gas centrifuge and atomic vapor laser isotope separation, 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, that was more advanced than the P-1 design Iran had admitted to earlier.

IAEA DG ElBaradei's reports throughout 2005 confirmed that the IAEA continued to investigate these two serious 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-210; and the involvement of the Iranian military both 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 concerns that Iran continued not to allow the Agency to investigate at least two undeclared facilities where the IAEA believes undeclared nuclear activities may have been conducted.

In November 2004, Iran and the EU3 (France, Germany, and the United Kingdom) signed an agreement in Paris obliging Iran to suspend fully all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and initiating negotiations on a long-term arrangement in which Iran provides "objective guarantees" that its nuclear program is peaceful, 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 a verified Iranian agreement to end its pursuit of an indigenous nuclear fuel cycle. Following that agreement, the EU3 and Iran had 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 WTO, 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.

On March 29, 2006, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council noting with serious concern Iran's decision to resume enrichment-related activities and to suspend cooperation with the IAEA under the Additional Protocol. The Council called upon Iran to take the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors and expressed the conviction that Iran's suspension of its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, and full, verified Iranian compliance with the requirements set out by the IAEA Board of Governors would contribute to a diplomatic, negotiated solution that guaranteed that Iran's nuclear program was exclusively for peaceful purposes. The Council underlined the willingness of the international community to work positively for such a

solution, which would also benefit nuclear nonproliferation elsewhere. The Security Council requested a report from the IAEA Director General in 30 days on the process of Iranian compliance.

On June 8, 2006, the IAEA Director General reported that Iran had not taken the steps required of it by the IAEA Board of Governors and, on July 31, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1696 calling upon Iran to take the steps required by the IAEA, and demanding that Iran suspend its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. The resolution called upon all states, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, to exercise vigilance and prevent the transfer of any items, materials, goods, and technology that could contribute to Iran's enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and ballistic missile programs. The resolution requested the IAEA Director General to report by August 31 on whether Iran had established full and sustained suspension of all activities mentioned in the resolution, as well as compliance with the IAEA requirements.

On August 31, 2006, and again on November 16, the IAEA Director General issued reports confirming that Iran had not established full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities as set out in Resolution 1696, and on December 23, the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, unanimously adopted Resolution 1737, which imposed sanctions on Iran for its failure to comply with Security Council resolutions and the requirements of the IAEA Board of Governors. The Council required Iran to suspend all nuclear enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, and work on all heavy water-related projects, including the construction of a research reactor moderated by heavy water. The suspension of those activities would be verified by the IAEA. Iran was also required to cooperate fully with the IAEA in order to resolve all outstanding issues surrounding its nuclear program. The resolution prohibited the import or export of specified nuclear and missile-related items, as well as any technical or financial assistance related to the transfer or use of such items. The Council also decided to require all States to prevent the supply, sale or transfer, for the use in or benefit of Iran, of any items, equipment or technology, which states determined would contribute to enrichment-related, reprocessing or heavy water-related activities, the development of nuclear weapons delivery systems, or any other activities about which the IAEA had expressed concern. Member states were also required to freeze the assets of persons or entities designated by the Council or the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1737 as supporting Iran's proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities or the development of nuclear-weapon delivery systems. In addition, member states were required to notify the Sanctions Committee of the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons.

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 2006, 145 states had signed the Additional Protocol, and 76 had ratified and brought it 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 diplomatic effort begun during the U.S. Presidency 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 nonproliferation policy, as he stated in his nonproliferation speech at the National Defense University on February 11, 2004, is the universal adoption of the model Additional Protocol (AP). 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 AP 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 its entry into force.

Nuclear Security

The IAEA continued to provide guidance, technical support, and training programs in the prevention of nuclear terrorism in 2006. The United States was a primary supporter of the 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. 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.

The IAEA also further developed its new and more encompassing International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) to help states to evaluate and strengthen their overall nuclear security posture to include radioactive sources and border controls. The IAEA Board of Governors made substantial strides in 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 has taken a leadership role in promoting the Code and Guidance as global benchmarks for controlling sources throughout their life cycle. 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 for assessing the ability of states to manage radioactive sources was enhanced to incorporate security as well as safety, Radioactive Source Safety and Security Infrastructure Appraisal (RaSSia).

In May 2004, the U.S. Secretary of Energy announced an ambitious new Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) to identify, secure, recover, and/or facilitate the disposition of high-risk, vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials around the world that pose a threat to the United States and the international community. Since its inception, the GTRI has worked in coordination with the IAEA to accelerate removal of high-risk, vulnerable nuclear materials around the world, speed up the global conversion of research reactor fuel from high-enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium, 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.

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. That effort culminated on July 8, 2005, when a diplomatic conference of states parties adopted an Amendment to the Convention. Among other provisions, the Amendment extends the scope of the physical protection obligations in the unamended 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 extends the scope of cooperation among states parties on physical protection matters and includes new criminal offenses in the criminal regime established by the unamended Convention.

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 2006, 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.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Established in 1944 and designated a UN specialized technical agency in 1947, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) promotes international cooperation for the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation within the objectives of security, safety, and environmental protection. Today's air transport industry includes nearly 900 scheduled air carriers worldwide operating about 21,500 aircraft. The United States has a vital interest in keeping civil aviation secure, safe, and efficient. ICAO is instrumental in achieving these objectives. 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 had 190 members in 2006. The United States has been elected to ICAO's governing Council every three years since the organization was founded. The most recent Council election took place in 2004, with the next scheduled for September 2007. Dr. Taïeb Chérif (Algeria) has served as Secretary-General since 2003 and was re-elected in February 2006 to a second three-year term. Roberto Kobeh (Mexico) was elected President of the Council of ICAO in February 2006 and took office in August 2006, following the retirement of Assad Kotaite, who had served as Council President since 1976. The next triennial ICAO Assembly will be held in September 2007.

In 2006, ICAO continued to give civil aviation security its highest priority. ICAO continued implementation of its Aviation Security Plan of Action, originally adopted following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The Council committed ICAO to funding Security Plan implementation from ICAO's regular budget. It also requested greater sharing among contracting states of data obtained from audits performed under the ICAO Universal Security Audit Program (USAP).

In August 2006, the ICAO Council met in extraordinary session to consider the terrorist plot discovered in the United Kingdom, where terrorists planned to use ordinary liquids brought on board in carry-on baggage to create explosives that could be used to threaten or destroy aircraft in flight. The Council called for action to develop standards to regulate liquids, aerosols, and

gels, and to develop improved means of detection. ICAO issued guidance with worldwide applicability regarding liquids, aerosols, and gels. In September 2006, ICAO's Aviation Security Panel accepted the U.S. position that ICAO's Security Manual needed to be revised to give appropriate protection to diplomatic pouches, and a drafting committee under U.S. leadership began preparing revisions.

In March 2006, ICAO held an extraordinary Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation following a rash of serious accidents in 2005. Among other decisions, the Conference decided to begin making the results of ICAO safety audits public beginning in 2008, giving member states two years to prepare. The ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP), begun in 1999, consists of audits carried out by ICAO in all 190 member states to assess their level of compliance with ICAO's safety standards and to establish corrective measures. In 2006, ICAO carried out 26 safety audits. ICAO is now shifting its focus from developing new standards to assisting member states with implementation of existing standards, and from detailed technical specifications to performance-based standards.

Regarding environmental issues, working groups of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) developed draft ICAO guidance material "to incorporate emissions from international aviation into contracting states' emissions trading schemes" on the basis of mutual consent, and draft ICAO guidance material on implementing aircraft emissions charges related to local air quality that is consistent with overall ICAO guidance in this area. However, there is ongoing debate about the mutual consent aspect of the emissions trading guidance and the effectiveness of local air quality charges.

During 2006, ICAO undertook important management reform initiatives, including recommending term limits of two three-year terms for both the Secretary-General and the Council President, an important U.S. priority. ICAO also hired a new chief financial officer and consolidated the administrative functions for the safety and security audit programs into one office to eliminate overhead. The Secretary-General appointed a study group to advise on other management reforms within the Secretariat that contained many other U.S. initiatives, but he did not accept the study group's recommendations.

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 2006, WHO worked in close partnership with its 193 member states and two associate members, many international organizations, more than 180 non-governmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 leading health-related institutions around the world designated as "WHO collaborating centers." WHO representatives in

142 countries worked with health ministries as advisors and managers of technical cooperation programs.

During 2006, U.S. representatives participated in meetings of the World Health Assembly (WHA); the WHO Executive Board; Regional Committees for the Americas, the Western Pacific, Africa, and Europe; and the Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer. U.S. officials also participated in meetings of the management committees of WHO's major voluntarily funded programs; and of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, and Intellectual Property.

WHO Director-General, Dr. Jong-Wook Lee (South Korea), was serving the third year of his five-year term when he died of a stroke on May 22, 2006. The WHA President announced at the opening session of the World Health Assembly on May 22 that Dr. Lee had died, and that Dr. Anders Nordstrom, Assistant Director-General for General Management, was named Acting Director-General. The WHO Executive Board (EB) confirmed that decision in an emergency session. The Executive Board also approved an accelerated process for the election of a new Director-General and agreed to holding an extraordinary meeting of the Board on November 6-8, 2006, and a one-day World Health Assembly on November 9, 2006, to consider the nomination and appoint a new Director-General.

Director-General Lee's legacy included having established the "3 by 5" initiative (access for 3 million people to anti-retroviral drugs by the end of 2005), giving priority to eradication of polio worldwide, achievement of the health-related goals of the UN Millennium Declaration, decentralization of WHO's work, and renewing accountability and effectiveness at WHO through results-based management. Health Ministers and WHO Staff also lauded Dr. Lee's personal legacy of dedication, genuine care for others, and his wry humor and unpretentiousness.

Thirteen candidates were nominated to serve as Director-General of WHO, and most campaigned for the post with visits to WHO Executive Board member states, including the United States, prior to the November election. At the extraordinary Board session, the first task was to determine a short list of five finalists; each finalist was then interviewed for the position. A series of votes were then held to determine the nominee, and on the fourth ballot Dr. Margaret Chan of (Hong Kong) China emerged as the winning nominee. On the next day, November 9th, the World Health Assembly convened formally to elect Dr. Chan to serve as WHO Director-General and to set her term of office at five-and-a-half years beginning on January 4, 2007.

With an avian and pandemic influenza threat as a growing concern during the course of 2006, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution urging voluntary implementation of the pandemic influenza-related provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005) prior to their entry into force in 2007. The IHRs establish an international legal framework for states parties to notify the WHO and respond to a public health emergency of international concern. Upon entry into force in June 2007, the IHRs obligated states parties

to strengthen their ability to detect, respond to, reduce or eliminate the spread of public health emergencies, and to report in a timely way to WHO. The IHRs will also authorize the Director-General of the WHO to issue non-binding recommendations on measures that affected states parties should take, including, if necessary, restrictions on travel and commerce to and from affected areas. During 2006, the Secretariat noted it was taking steps to accelerate IHR implementation, including the establishment of a Pandemic Influenza Task Force, to be able to provide immediate assistance to affected countries on effective control measures, laboratory support, and outbreak communications.

The 2006 World Health Assembly also addressed a number of issues important to the United States. Health, trade, and intellectual property issues were prominent, and three separate resolutions were proposed, all focused on these issues, including one that envisioned development of a “global framework” for essential health research and development. While the United States did not agree to such a framework, agreement was reached on the creation of an Inter-governmental Working Group (IGWG) to draw up a “global strategy and plan of action” to provide a medium-term framework based on the recommendations of the 2006 Report of the Commission on Innovation, Public Health and Intellectual Property (CIPIH). The United States sought a pragmatic focus on research and development into needs-driven essential health research rather than compulsory licenses and other issues relating to patents.

The Assembly also considered a variety of substantive topics such as the international migration of health personnel, a global strategy on sexually transmitted infections, progress on polio eradication, and emergency preparedness and response. The WHA welcomed the successful convening in February 2006 of the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). While 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, it was not possible to bridge the divide with several African countries at the Assembly on setting a date for the destruction of the smallpox virus stocks, and the Assembly postponed the issue until the January 2007 Executive Board.

The Assembly did not accept a proposal for a new agenda item on granting observer status for Taiwan, put forward by several countries having diplomatic relations with Taiwan. There was limited debate on the proposal, with the Assembly President allowing no more than two countries to speak in favor of the proposal and two to speak against.

Once again, the Assembly 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 was extremely unbalanced in its references to Israel. The United States requested a roll-call vote; the resolution was adopted, with

the United States and eight other countries voting against it, and a number of abstentions and absences. The United States noted the responsibility of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority Government for recent hardships of the Palestinian people, indicated the U.S. humanitarian and medical assistance, and stated that the resolution did not advance the health of the Palestinian people but interjected political issues into the debate of the Assembly that were unambiguously outside the mandate of WHO.

The Assembly adopted the Eleventh General Program of Work, a 10-year strategic planning document for 2006-2015. The newly created Program, Budget, and Administration Committee also met prior to the Assembly and considered management and reform issues in depth, including: development of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008-2013; results-based management initiatives; and the development of the Global Management System, an integrated program management and administration system. The Assembly also approved the financial report for 2004-2005, and considered reports from the External and Internal Auditors. The annual Human Resources report showed an increase in the hiring of women, but little progress on closing the gap on hiring from under-represented countries.

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a subsidiary body of the World Health Organization, 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, with 18 member states, including two new members in 2006 (India and Korea), met at IARC headquarters in Lyon, France, on May 18–19, 2006. 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 third year as IARC Director.

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 Directing Council of PAHO convened at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 25–29, 2006. U.S. officials, including U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael 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 Director of PAHO, Dr. Mirta Roses (Argentina), who took office in February 2003, 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 2006 focused on the importance of achieving the health-related development goals of the Millennium Declaration, such as the reduction of child mortality; improvements of maternal health; strengthening preparedness for and response to disasters; access to safe drinking water; improvements in immunization coverage; and control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The Directing Council discussed and adopted resolutions on pressing health issues, including immunizations, maternal and child health, indigenous peoples' health, health promotion, a regional strategy on nutrition, and the development of the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017. Representatives of PAHO's 38 member states participated, mostly at the ministerial level.

The Directing Council also agreed to restructure and reform several areas of governance, following the recommendations of a working group in which the United States participated, and to disband two Subcommittees, i.e., on women and on animal health, whose topics were better addressed through incorporation into other governance discussions. The Directing Council also changed the name of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming to become the Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration, and revised its terms of reference with a focus on issues of budget, management, and administrative issues. The Directing Council also agreed to a number of changes to improve the procedures and transparency of the election of the Director of PAHO.

Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) began formal operations in 1996. UNAIDS is comprised of a Geneva-based Secretariat and 10 co-sponsoring bodies: 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 has a field-based staff and works directly in 75 countries dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic, primarily through country-coordination theme groups that seek to mobilize all sectors to address AIDS. Dr. Peter Piot (Belgium) has been the Executive Director of UNAIDS since its inception.

UNAIDS' governing body is the Program Coordinating Board (PCB), which meets three times per biennium. The PCB oversees UNAIDS' all-voluntary budget and acts on issues concerning policy, strategy, finance, monitoring, and evaluation. The PCB is comprised of 22 member states, distributed by region and elected from among the member states of the co-sponsoring organizations: six representatives from the co-sponsoring organizations; and five representatives from non-governmental organizations, three from developing countries and two from developed countries. Member

states are elected by the UN Economic and Social Council for three-year terms, but can choose to cede a portion of their term to another member state subject to ECOSOC approval. The United States was elected to the PCB in 2005 and will serve through 2007. Representatives from the UNAIDS co-sponsoring organizations and non-governmental organizations serving on the PCB have the right to participate fully in PCB deliberations, but do not have the right to vote. The PCB seeks to operate by consensus whenever possible.

The PCB met twice in 2006 – first on June 27-28, in Geneva; and again December 6-8, in Lusaka, Zambia. Discussions at both meetings were dominated by the formulation of the UN system's response to the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on June 2. UNAIDS modified implementation of its voluntarily funded \$439.6 million Unified Budget and Workplan for 2006–2007 in order to support better the priorities established through the 2006 Political Declaration. Most importantly, UNAIDS strengthened its support for country-driven efforts to work toward universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care, and support by 2010. Through active participation in the PCB meetings, the United States successfully ensured that PCB decisions endorsed the need for the international response to HIV/AIDS to remain country-driven, and emphasized the key role of the UN system in advocating for development of national strategies through inclusive, transparent processes and in providing technical support to countries in key areas such as monitoring and evaluation. The United States continues to be strongly supportive of UNAIDS' work.

In 2006, the UNAIDS PCB approved a 2007-2010 Strategic Framework for UNAIDS support to countries' efforts to move toward universal access. The Strategic Framework places working toward universal access as the overarching objective of UNAIDS for the next four years; reaffirms UNAIDS support for coordinated, country-level planning and budgeting; establishes a common set of Strategic Directions among UNAIDS co-sponsoring organizations and the Secretariat; and aims to bring longer-term direction, accountability, and consistency to the work of UNAIDS and its cosponsors. The United States supported the global effort to move toward universal access to prevention programs, treatment and care through its strong political commitment to advancing access to AIDS prevention, treatment, and care around the world, and 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.

The United States also worked closely with UNAIDS during 2006 to highlight the importance of voluntary HIV testing and counseling. At the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting in June, First Lady Laura Bush noted that it is not possible to receive life-saving treatment without knowing one's status and called for the establishment of an International Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing Day. At the request of the United States, UNAIDS followed up this call by conducting a feasibility study on the merits of holding an International Testing Day; the study determined that it could be useful in

many circumstances with proper planning and preparation. Heeding this advice, the United States and 24 other governments from Africa, the Americas, and Asia proposed a decision text calling on all UN Member States to observe an International Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing Day in 2007. The UN General Assembly adopted this decision by consensus on December 4, 2006. The United States will continue working with UNAIDS and WHO to support this initiative.

During 2006, UNAIDS continued to strengthen its relationship with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), an independent, non-UN organization. Along with WHO, UNAIDS serves as an *ex officio* member of the Board of the Fund. UNAIDS provided advice and technical assistance to countries seeking assistance to prepare and submit funding proposals to the Global Fund. In response to the lack of technical support for HIV/AIDS efforts more generally, UNAIDS established the Technical Support Facilities (TSF) model in late 2005, with technical assistance programs beginning in 2006. Since their establishment, the UNAIDS TSFs have provided over 3,000 person-days of technical assistance in strategic planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of efforts in support of national HIV/AIDS programs, covering over 60 countries. Clients of the TSFs to date include national AIDS authorities and other national ministries, regional bodies, and civil society. During 2006, the United States worked with the TSFs to provide technical support upon request, specifically to improve performance of Global Fund grants.

International Labor Organization (ILO)

The International Labor Organization (ILO), founded in 1919, promotes humane labor conditions. The organization's core mission is to foster 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 assist states 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.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the ILO has 180 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 (ILC) held in June. This tripartite structure is unique to the ILO.

In 2006, the ILO advanced U.S. policy priorities for universal human rights standards and economic growth and development. The ILO helped to advance U.S. interests in the key areas of freedom of association, eradication of forced labor and child labor, education on HIV/AIDS in the workplace, and

technical assistance in 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, the AFL-CIO represents U.S. workers and the New York-based U.S. Council for International Business represents U.S. employers in the Governing Body. These representatives speak and vote independently of the U.S. Government.

In 2006, the ILO continued to focus international attention on forced labor in Burma, which a 1998 ILO Commission of Inquiry found to be “widespread and systematic.” In all three of its annual meetings, the ILO threatened to refer Burma to the International Court of Justice for this abuse of human rights. The ILO also cited Belarus and Colombia 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 2006, the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) removed or prevented approximately 130,000 children from exploitative work through the provision of educational and training opportunities in ongoing projects funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The United States has funded action to fight child labor in 79 countries. Draft legislation to realize the fundamental principles and rights at work, including a prohibition against child labor, was developed in 12 countries.

In 2006, the ILO provided advice on labor law reform to approximately 30 countries, and technical assistance to 18 countries to modernize their labor ministries. The ILO assisted U.S. trading partners in 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.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The mission of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is to foster international cooperation to promote maritime safety, security, and the protection of the marine environment. International trade is critical to the U.S. economy, and shipping carries nearly 90 percent of the world's trade. The United States strongly supports IMO's work. The IMO develops conventions and treaties on international shipping, facilitates international maritime trade, and provides technical assistance in maritime matters to developing countries. The IMO also develops standards and practices to protect against oil spills and pollution from hazardous and noxious cargo, ship waste, ballast water, and emissions.

The United States has been elected to the IMO's 40-member Governing Council every two years since the organization was founded in 1948. Efthimios Mitropoulos (Greece) is the Secretary-General of the IMO. He served an initial four-year term 2004-2007, and in November 2006 the

Council approved him for a second four-year term. The IMO has 167 full IMO members and three associate members (Hong Kong, Macao, and the Faroe Islands).

The IMO supports U.S. interests by enhancing maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. Significantly, the IMO created the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, which incorporated U.S.-sponsored amendments into universal international standards that parallel U.S. domestic maritime security requirements. IMO has also focused on protecting vital shipping lanes of strategic importance. The Straits of Malacca and Singapore have suffered many attacks by pirates. Any serious or lasting disruption of maritime traffic through the Straits would have a widespread and far-reaching detrimental effect, requiring ships to make a long detour around Indonesia and force shippers to pay higher freight rates. In September 2006, IMO sponsored a conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, consisting of representatives of the Malacca Straits littoral states, Straits users including the United States, and other concerned parties including the shipping industry. This was the second of three meetings hosted by the states bordering the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. During 2006, the international insurance industry lowered its rates from wartime back to normal levels because pirate attacks in the Straits had decreased. Another area that suffers from piracy is the Horn of Africa off the Somali coast. After the UN Security Council endorsed the IMO's call for member states to use their naval and air assets in the region to protect merchant shipping, U.S. naval vessels participated in several anti-piracy missions in 2006, including one that led to the arrest, trial, and imprisonment of seven pirates.

In 2006, the IMO carried out the first audits of member states (Chile and Denmark) under the IMO Voluntary Audit Scheme. The Audit Scheme will help to promote maritime safety, security, and environmental protection by assessing how effectively member states are implementing and enforcing IMO Convention standards. The audits will also provide feedback to the member states with advice on how to improve their performance. Eventually 33 countries will be audited each year on a five-year, rotating basis. The Audit Scheme should bring about many benefits, such as identifying where capacity-building activities would have the greatest effect, and targeting appropriate, relevant actions; the member states themselves should receive valuable feedback to assist them in putting the applicable instruments into practice; and generic lessons learned from audits could be provided to all member states so that the benefits could be widely shared.

During 2006, the IMO was especially active in protecting the marine environment by coordinating the international response to an oil spill in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea that had been caused by the bombing of a power plant in Lebanon.

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 2006, there were 191 member states and over 700 sector and associate members in the ITU. Yoshio Utsumi (Japan) completed his second term as Secretary-General of the ITU in 2006. 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 the governing board of the ITU between plenipotentiary conferences. The Council is comprised of representatives from five regions: the Americas, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia elected at plenipotentiary conferences. It meets annually to address management and other issues. The Geneva-based ITU held its annual Council meeting April 19-28, 2006, with a one-day extraordinary session on November 4 immediately prior to the 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference. The United States was particularly interested this year in revising certain portions of the Constitution and Convention, as is done at each plenipotentiary conference; enhancing efforts to reform the ITU financial system as a means to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the Union; and directing the ITU's role in the implementation of certain aspects of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), concluded in Tunis in November 2005. For the past several years, the United States has led a highly successful reform effort in the ITU that has resulted in the ITU increasingly operating on a sound financial basis.

2006 was a crucial year for the ITU, as two important quadrennial meetings were held that set the direction of the organization for the next four years. In March 2006, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) took place in Doha. The Conference produced a four-year Action Plan that guides the work of the Telecommunication Development (D) Sector membership, and of the ITU Development Bureau leadership and staff. Through the Doha Action Plan, developed and developing countries continue to work together to improve telecommunications and boost economic growth in developing, and especially least developed countries. The D Sector provides opportunities for U.S. Government and industry participation as it focuses on expanding telecommunications networks and services in the developing world. Among the initiatives approved in Doha are the mainstreaming of gender issues in all ITU development work; the approval of five pilot projects per region based on each region's preferences; and the incorporation of the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS, particularly

in reference to information and communication infrastructure and building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a major responsibility of the D Sector.

The United States accomplished its main goals at the Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, in November 2006. The United States was re-elected to the Council for another four-year term (2007-2010) with a larger number of votes than it received in 2002. In addition, the United States succeeded in having an American elected to the Radio Regulations Board, a 12-member body that issues vital recommendations on international radio regulations. The U.S. candidate became the first woman ever elected to any office in the ITU's history. The United States also achieved its objectives in limiting consideration of Cuban complaints about U.S. broadcasting, and in ensuring that Palestinian Authority observer status in the ITU does not exceed that extended to it at the UN General Assembly. The United States continued to push for greater transparency and accountability, as it has for several years. Linkages between the Strategic, Operational, and Financial Plans for the next quadrennial were reinforced and the use of results-based management principles was mandated, in addition to continuing the implementation of results-based budgeting. The United States also successfully proposed the creation of a Management and Budget Group to provide member state guidance and oversight to the ITU's management between Council sessions. The Plenipotentiary Conference also laid out the role of the ITU in the implementation of WSIS outcomes within its core competencies, without expanding its mandate. The Plenipotentiary Conference elected the top five officials of the Union (Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and the three Directors of the Sectors), to take office in January 2007.

The United States has considerable interests in all areas of ITU activities. The Radiocommunication Sector's World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), a treaty-level meeting that occurs every three-to-four years, was scheduled for 2007; it is central to U.S. national security and commercial interests. These conferences allocate scarce frequency bands to radio services, and assign equally scarce orbital slots to member states, which in turn make decisions with respect to their use for radio and other services. The U.S. private sector is notably engaged in the Standardization (T) and Radiocommunication (R) Sectors. The standardization activities of the ITU are indispensable to U.S. Government and commercial interests to ensure world-wide compatibility and interoperability of global networks.

UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO was established in 1945 with the primary objective of contributing to peace and security worldwide. Since rejoining UNESCO on October 1, 2003, the United States has continued 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, increased understanding of democratic principles and practice, use of scientific knowledge, and protection of the cultural and natural heritage of humankind. UNESCO, which has a Secretariat headquartered in Paris, has 192 member states and has been led since 1999 by Director-General Koichiro Matsuura (Japan).

The Executive Board, one of UNESCO's governing 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. A U.S. delegation participated in the semiannual Board Sessions in Paris, April 2006 (174th Session), and September 2006 (175th Session). The sessions focused on preparing the Medium Term Strategy for 2008-2013, as well as on issues of freedom of expression and Education for All.

The April Executive Board, in the wake of the Danish cartoon controversy, examined the issue of freedom of expression, and respect for sacred beliefs and values and religious and cultural symbols. At this Board, the United States was able to ensure protections for freedom of expression and media freedom, and joined consensus on the item. During the September Executive Board, the United States began to focus on reforms of the Education Sector. As a participant in the One UN process, UNESCO must continue to focus its programs and its personnel on field offices. The United States will follow these and other sector reforms in the coming years.

U.S. priorities at the 2006 meetings of the Executive Board were to maintain budget discipline within UNESCO and focus UNESCO program efforts and budget resources on the areas of literacy, democracy (civic education and press freedom), access to potable water, and natural hazards mitigation. The Executive Board began its examination of the Medium Term Strategy for 2008-2013 through a drafting group to which the United States is a member. The Medium Term Strategy plots a course for the Organization for a six-year time period. The United States worked with other delegations, ensuring that U.S. priorities in the areas of education, science, and democracy appeared in the Medium Term Strategy.

In 2006, UNESCO saw several successes in the area of education, a main U.S. priority. The United States worked with other member states in promoting results-based education programs at the country level, where they will do the most good toward achieving the goals of Education for All. UNESCO's Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) program, a literacy strategic framework with the goal of achieving concrete, measurable results in 35 countries with the highest rates of illiteracy, saw implementation in 11 countries. The second phase of LIFE will be launched in 2008 to another 11 countries. In her role as honorary Ambassador for the UN Literacy Decade, First Lady Laura Bush hosted the first-ever White House Conference on

Global Literacy in September 2006. The White House Conference set in motion six regional UNESCO literacy conferences that will be completed by the end of 2008. These conferences will focus on the themes of Mother/Child Literacy, Literacy for Health, and Literacy for Economic Self-Sufficiency; and will disseminate effective practices, create cooperation among stakeholders, mobilize partners and resources, and advocate for literacy.

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, 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 54th session met in Vienna, from May 29-June 2, 2006. The U.S. delegation, led by Dr. Fred Mettler of the University of New Mexico and the Veterans Administration, included seven other advisors from academia, the private sector, and the U.S. Government. The Scientific Committee reviewed 10 scientific reports on topics that included sources-to-effects assessments 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, exposures from radiation accidents, and medical radiation exposures. Five reports were approved for publication. Deliberations of the Scientific Committee resulted in a path forward for the upcoming year, including plans for the review of six draft reports at the 55th session, with the expectation that three will be approved for publication.

March 14, 2006, marked the 50th anniversary of the first session of UNSCEAR, and the Scientific Committee commemorated this milestone during its 54th session with a ceremony hosted by the City of Vienna and attended by dignitaries, scientists, and government officials including the U.S. Ambassador of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Vienna. The Secretariat continued its efforts to raise awareness of the work and relevance of UNSCEAR outside of the traditional scientific community. The UNSCEAR Scientific Committee's website has been substantially updated and revised to enhance access to UNSCEAR products. All past reports of the Committee are now available electronically on the website.

UNSCEAR is an independent UN advisory body and reports its findings directly to the UN General Assembly. However, the UN

Environment Program (UNEP) provides administrative support for UNSCEAR, and funding for the UNSCEAR Secretariat and operations are included in the UNEP program and budget. Communication and coordination between UNSCEAR and UNEP have greatly improved in recent years, and the United States continues to encourage cooperation between UNEP and the UNSCEAR Secretariat in order to maintain recent improvements in UNSCEAR administration. In response to a budgeting error, which left UNSCEAR without funds for publishing in the 2006-07 biennium, UNEP provided \$49,000 in additional resources for 2006 to ensure that the Scientific Committee was able to fulfill a crucial element of its mandate: publication and dissemination of its findings. However, funding and staffing issues continued to challenge UNSCEAR in 2006. Declining budgets and the loss of a P-5 post in the early 1990's has left UNSCEAR with only one professional staff position to manage an increasing workload with decreasing resources.

In light of U.S. and international efforts to prevent, manage, and mitigate radiological incidents and burgeoning interest in nuclear energy, it is in the U.S. interest that UNSCEAR continue to operate as an effective, credible, and independent scientific body, and that its findings be widely disseminated.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

The purpose of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, is to facilitate the efficient operation of postal services across national borders, and to serve as a forum for regulatory and customer issues related to postal and express delivery markets. The United States joined the UPU at its founding in 1874. The UPU has since grown to encompass 191 member countries. In recent years the UPU gained attention for its 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 *ad personam*.

Edouard Dayan of France is the current Director General of the UPU International Bureau. Romania chairs the Council of Administration, and the United States chairs the Postal Operations Council (POC). Michael Regan of the U.S. Postal Service currently serves as POC Chairman.

In 2006, U.S. policy goals continued to focus on designing 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 systems and methodologies for measuring the performance of postal administrations in delivering international mail; linking inter-administration payments to performance; solidifying private-sector participation in the UPU; and strengthening the Union's strategic planning capabilities.

Work on terminal dues progressed with the completion of several important studies on international mail volumes, domestic postage rates, and

costs. A terminal dues workshop with more than 150 participants from over 75 countries took place in Bern to gather member-country views on the principles and an initial system design for the future terminal dues system to be decided at the 2008 Nairobi Congress.

The project where the UPU arguably made its most progress in 2006 was in drafting the design for a “global monitoring system” to measure the performance of developing postal administrations in delivering inbound international letters. A system for measuring the quality of service of industrialized postal administrations in delivering international letters and linking terminal dues payments to performance results was formally deployed in 2005; and the UPU published the first reports generated by the system in early 2006. The technology employed by these measurement systems relies heavily on transponders utilizing Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips inserted in test letters mailed and received by independent correspondents. In recent years, the prices of these transponders and associated technology have fallen considerably, and the UPU has seized on this opportunity to design an affordable measurement system accessible to a wider range of its member postal administrations.

During 2006, the United States remained actively engaged in the efforts of several working groups, of both the POC and the Council of Administration, whose overall purpose is to ensure high-quality international postal services at affordable prices. Within the POC, the United States continued to lead the Postal Security Action Group and Standards Board, and served in key positions in the Telematics Cooperative, the Express Mail Service (EMS) Cooperative, the Terminal Dues Project Group, 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.

The UPU’s Consultative Committee, which was formed by the 2004 Bucharest Congress and whose members include private sector associations of mailers, express delivery firms, trade unions, equipment manufacturers, and other postal stakeholders, pursued an ambitious work program focusing on trade matters and projects of particular interest to large mailers, such as cross-border address forwarding and access models. The Chairman 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.

Throughout 2006, the United States played a central role in innovative work carried out by the UPU’s Strategic Planning Group in the field of results-based management. The Group adopted a concept proposed by the United States under which the UPU produces “report cards” showing the progress made by each member administration in achieving selected UPU strategic goals. The latter include service and tracking performance, access to postal services, and legislative reform of national postal services. The Strategic Planning Group also approved an approach put forward by the United States to seek the views of member countries about UPU strategic and

budgetary priorities through surveys containing specific lists of discretionary UPU activities. The intent is to prioritize the activities in the biennial UPU Program and Budget so that optimum use can be made of limited UPU financial resources.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) promotes the protection of intellectual property rights throughout the world through cooperation among member states. 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 184 members of the WIPO Convention. 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 includes patents, trademarks, and copyrights. The two principal treaties are the Paris and Berne Conventions (with, in 2006, 171 and 163 members, respectively). WIPO also administers 20 multilateral "unions" (the treaty administering organs).

The General Assemblies of WIPO Unions were held in Geneva from September 25-October 3, 2006. The WIPO General Assembly, of which the United States is a member, addressed many important on-going issues facing the organization, including efforts to strengthen accountability and oversight within the organization, concluding a treaty to update international intellectual property standards for broadcasting in the information age, establishing a constructive framework in which to assess how to integrate further a development dimension into WIPO's work, and developing a possible work program for the Standing Committee on Patents (SCP).

The United States achieved several major objectives in line with the U.S. vision of UN reform. The Assembly adopted limits on fund transfers between programs, approved the hiring of a new internal auditor, and requested that WIPO prepare a draft revision of the Financial Rules and Regulations for its consideration in 2007. The Assembly also approved a new mechanism to involve member states earlier and more actively in the preparation of the biennial program and budget, which will be utilized for preparation of the 2008-2009 Program and Budget. The United States also expressed its support for the work of the Audit Committee in providing significant oversight of a new building construction project (valued at over \$100 million) and the desk-to-desk audit recommended by the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). The construction project charter was substantially improved in response to the Audit Committee's recommendations, as was the

plan for the desk-to-desk review, which began in 2006. The United States pushed strongly for implementation of other measures designed to improve transparency and accountability related to the adoption of a general code of ethics and a clear system of performance evaluation.

The Director-General's ability to make personnel promotions and to fill positions through direct recruitment was curtailed, with limited success. A hiring freeze was put in place pending the outcome of the desk-to-desk review, but it also has not been fully implemented. 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. Although the report could not conclusively document fraud, it indicated that serious weaknesses in the management of WIPO made such acts feasible. The report highlighted, among other recommendations, the need for a comprehensive written human resources management policy, a recommendation the United States strongly supported. In 2006, WIPO took initial steps toward development of such a policy, a process that continues to date. A separate Swiss investigation into possible criminal wrongdoing has been ongoing since 2004.

The Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of which the United States is an active member, continued its work under its extended mandate through 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."

At the 10th meeting of the IGC, in 2006, the United States successfully negotiated a new work plan for both traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. At the 11th IGC, work on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions will commence with discussion on a List of Issues drafted by the Chair of the 10th IGC. Work on genetic resources will continue at the 11th meeting of the IGC, with discussion on a Secretariat-prepared document listing options for further work.

After much discussion, the 2006 WIPO General Assembly agreed to an extension and a specific format for the work of the Provisional Committee on Proposals related to a WIPO Development Agenda (PCDA). The Assembly called for two more meetings, prior to the 2007 Assembly, on two baskets of proposals in order to complete discussions related to enhancement of a WIPO development agenda. In its interventions on this proposal during the General Assembly, the United States continued to emphasize that WIPO's activities already included a strong development component, and that the United States had previously proposed an Internet-based WIPO Partnership Program.

Although the 2005 Assembly instituted a process to move forward on discussions on substantive patent law harmonization, WIPO members

remained deadlocked in deciding on a work plan for the Standing Committee on Patents (SCP) in 2006. The industrialized countries want to pursue harmonization of patent examination standards (so-called "prior art" issues), but several developing countries are opposed to this narrow focus and want to include numerous controversial topics in the discussions such as a new patent disclosure requirement relating to genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights recommended to the 2006 Assembly that a diplomatic conference on a Broadcasters' Treaty be convened in November 2006. However, the United States, along with several other countries, argued that it was premature to convene a conference until the text had been further refined and agreed upon. As a result, the Assembly called for two more meetings of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights before the next Assembly to refine and finalize a draft Broadcasters Treaty text. If successful, a diplomatic conference would be convened by the 2007 Assembly. The United States strongly supported this measure as a means to move forward to ensure that any diplomatic conference convened could include a treaty that would adequately address U.S. industry needs and concerns.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) facilitates free and unrestricted exchange of weather- and climate-related data, products, and services in real or near-real time among members. It thus contributes to the protection of life and property from natural disasters, and enhances the economic interests of members, particularly in the agricultural, aviation, shipping, energy, and defense sectors. WMO also sponsors capacity-building initiatives that improve meteorological data collection and forecasting capacities around the world, thereby enhancing the accuracy and timeliness of weather-related services on a global scale.

The WMO membership includes 182 states and six member territories, all of which maintain their own meteorological services and collect meteorological and hydrological data within their domain. The WMO governing structure includes a quadrennial Congress comprised of member states and territories, which establishes the budget and overall priorities for the organization, and an annual Executive Council, which oversees administration of the budget and addresses technical and policy issues. The WMO Executive Council is comprised of 37 Permanent Representatives to the WMO, typically heads of weather services, serving in their personal capacities. The United States Permanent Representative to the WMO was re-elected to the Executive Council in 2003 for a four-year term. The Geneva-based Secretariat is led by WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud (France), who was elected for a four-year term in 2003.

In 2006, the United States participated in the WMO Executive Council and a variety of WMO Regional Association, Technical Commission, and expert-level meetings, ensuring that WMO operations are consistent with U.S. interests in meteorology, hydrology, and climate. Through participation

in the WMO Executive Council, the United States provided oversight of the WMO budget and established technical and policy priorities for the remainder of the 2006-2007 biennium. The United States also negotiated consensus decisions on enhancement of the World Weather Watch program and the Global Telecommunications System, preparation of a zero-nominal growth budget proposal for the 2007-2011 financial period, alignment of the results-based budget proposal with the WMO Long Term Plan, and continued improvement of internal oversight measures. The United States chaired WMO's Audit Committee in 2006, and successfully pushed for increased financial accountability and transparency within WMO. Consistent with the Audit Committee's guidance, WMO hired a new Director of Internal Oversight, finalized a Code of Ethics for WMO staff, adopted strengthened financial disclosure requirements, and instituted additional management reforms.

In 2006, WMO continued to facilitate meteorological data collection and exchange through the World Weather Watch program and the Global Climate Observing System. These programs provide data that is essential for numerical weather modeling, and enable WMO members to provide weather-related forecasts and services at costs far below those that would be incurred if each member acted alone. Also in 2006, WMO continued to upgrade the Global Telecommunications Service, which serves as the communications backbone for exchange of weather data, forecasts, and warnings, including tsunami and hurricane alerts. It also implemented the final phase of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS), thereby improving the quality and consistency of route forecast guidance provided to international civil aircraft operations. U.S. commercial air carriers rely extensively on WAFS data to economize their operations, and to avoid potentially hazardous in-flight weather conditions. 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 2006, the United States' voluntary contribution to this program funded, *inter alia*, development of improved flash flood prediction and hurricane warning guidance, natural disaster prediction and preparedness initiatives, and training for national weather service staff around the world. The United States is the largest supporter of the Voluntary Cooperation Program. This U.S. contribution benefits the United States by improving the quality of weather, water, and climate-related data used by the U.S. National Weather Service to generate weather forecasts and severe storm warnings. Our voluntary contributions also greatly enhance U.S. influence within the WMO.