

# The United Nations at 60: Advancing its Objectives in the New Millennium



2005

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2005

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*Advancing its Objectives  
in the New Millennium*

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*Director-General*



 *Charter* 

OF THE UNITED NATIONS


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Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations  
Signed in San Francisco, 26 June 1945



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## We the peoples of the United Nations

DETERMINED **To SAVE** succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and **To REAFFIRM FAITH** in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and **To ESTABLISH CONDITIONS** under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and **To PROMOTE** social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, AND FOR THESE ENDS **To PRACTICE TOLERANCE** and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and **To UNITE OUR STRENGTH** to maintain international peace and security, and **To ENSURE**, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and **To EMPLOY INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY** for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.  Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.





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# The United Nations at 60: Advancing its Objectives in the New Millennium



*S*ixty years ago the founding fathers of the United Nations pledged to promote better standards of life in larger freedom. The values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations remain as valid today as they were in 1945. Over six decades, the United Nations has striven to fulfil those promises and, through our collective efforts, we have accomplished much. Our Organization has evolved under the direction and mandate of its Member States and as an institution serving those States.

The threats and challenges posed by terrorism, violent conflicts, extreme poverty, human rights violations, communicable diseases, natural disasters, environmental degradation and gender inequality, to mention only a few, are becoming increasingly complex as they cut across boundaries and affect us all. The United Nations represents 191 countries today, and their guidance is crucial in achieving our objectives. The accomplishments of the United Nations are very much the result of the commitments and efforts of all the actors of the United Nations system—Governments, civil society, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector—as well as a reflection of the determination of the citizens of the world. The sixtieth anniversary of our Organization provides a timely occasion for assessing our

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progress and reflecting on the challenges and opportunities that lie before us as well as on how we can best address them.

Between 14 and 16 September, the 2005 World Summit in New York, which was the largest gathering of world leaders for such an event, provided a historic opportunity for reiterating our commitments and taking concrete steps to address the threats and challenges of our time. The report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled, "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", provided a blueprint for the Summit, outlining areas where action was both vital and achievable over the ensuing months. As the report states, "we will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights", since these three areas are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. At the Summit, world leaders supported this thinking and recognized that development, peace and security and human rights were interlinked and therefore needed to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. The 2005 World Summit Outcome that they adopted outlines the shared challenges, our collective responsibility and the opportunities that we may seize together.

Member States were able to assess our progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration five years ago, the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) has been working, in collaboration with the greater United Nations family, to support efforts towards meeting the eight goals. An important area of progress was the strong commitment by all Governments, both developed and developing countries, who reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the goals by 2015.

Member States recognized the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for the coordination of economic and social development issues, as well as the implementation of the MDGs, amongst others.

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Progress was also made in the fight against international terrorism since Member States for the first time agreed to condemn terrorism “in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security”, providing a solid foundation for further work on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In this area, the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism signified an important step forward.

In recognition of the need to enhance our capacity for assisting countries emerging from conflict to achieve a sustainable peace, Member States agreed to establish a Peacebuilding Commission. This new intergovernmental advisory body will bring together a number of different actors to ensure international coherence in assisting the transition of countries from war to peace, especially in the security, development and human rights aspects of the post-conflict recovery and reconstruction processes.

Another area of progress was the acceptance by all Governments of “the responsibility to protect”—a collective international responsibility to take timely and decisive collective action, through the Security Council, to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Important decisions were also taken in the area of human rights, in the promotion of democracy and the rule of law since world leaders agreed to replace the existing Commission on Human Rights with a Human Rights Council. Furthermore, Member States voiced their support for the Democracy Fund, which was established earlier this year to enable the United Nations to do more to promote democracy around the world by strengthening democratic institutions and facilitating democratic governance in new or restored democracies.

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This year there have been unprecedented, global natural disasters characterized by loss of human life as well as loss of livelihoods and a huge cost to development. At the end of 2004, the tsunami in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia devastated the lives of thousands of people, the effects of which are still with us today. In 2005, Hurricane Stan in Central America, Hurricane Wilma in the Caribbean, Hurricane Katrina in the south of the United States of America and the earthquake in Pakistan took tens of thousands of lives and affected millions of people. The humanitarian and economic consequences of these tragic events will be felt for years to come. We must therefore work together to make nations more resilient in the face of natural disasters and strengthen capacities globally. During the 2005 World Summit, Member States agreed to strengthen the Central Emergency Revolving Fund for humanitarian emergencies. This will help towards ensuring that United Nations agencies have guaranteed funds within three to four days of an emergency, without having to wait for donor responses to flash appeals.

An overarching objective of the World Summit was to strengthen the United Nations and to ensure that it be fully adapted to the conditions of the twenty-first century and that it moves with the times. For this reason, the decision taken at the Summit to review all mandates older than five years is worth noting, as is the agreement to reinforce the United Nations' oversight capacity and to review budget and human resource rules.

It is true that the results of the World Summit did not meet our expectations and hopes for a substantial commitment towards disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation that are necessary for sustainable global security. Weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a serious threat to our collective security, especially the possibility of these weapons falling into the hands of terrorists. Failure to reach agreement at the Summit only underscored the necessity to find common ground for addressing these issues. Nor was a decision taken on Security Council reform, though Member States agreed to continue their efforts in reaching a decision on this critical issue.

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As a centre for international dialogue in pursuit of peace and development, UNOG has throughout the year continued to contribute to and support the overall efforts of the Organization. It is also already playing its part, as appropriate, in terms of the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and is continuing to carry out the Secretary-General's ongoing reform initiatives. Throughout 2005, UNOG has also been at the forefront of activities organized to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. These events took place over a period of four months and comprised seminars, lectures, exhibitions, concerts and an open day at the Palais des Nations, with the active participation of permanent missions, the host country authorities and a range of other partners.

This annual report is intended to provide an overview of the efforts of UNOG during 2005 to achieve the objectives of the United Nations, together with Member States and other stakeholders in the areas of peace, development and human rights.



Sergei Ordzhonikidze  
Under-Secretary-General  
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva



# I. Multilateral cooperation to address shared challenges

The threats and challenges of the twenty-first century are interrelated. They call for concerted, collective and comprehensive responses. As they affect us all, addressing them is a shared responsibility. Effective multilateralism therefore depends on continuous exchange and direct communication among all stakeholders. In this regard, UNOG continues to engage with high-level political representatives who come to the United Nations premises in Geneva to take part in international discussions, exchange views, identify priorities and formulate strategies to tackle current, interconnected challenges.

## Supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General

As part of its efforts to facilitate multilateral cooperation, UNOG provided services for a number of significant international negotiations, including the preparation of the five visits to Switzerland of the Secretary-General undertaken from December 2004 to October 2005, which took place as follows: (i) from 11 to 13 March 2005, on his way to Israel; (ii) from 6 to 10 April 2005 for the main purposes of addressing the Commission on Human Rights and of chairing the Chief Executives Board for Coordination session in Mont Pélerin; (iii) from 10 to 12 May 2005 for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission with the participation of President Paul Biya of Cameroon and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, at the invitation of and with the participation of the Secretary-General, to review progress on the demarcation process and advances in the implementation of the 10 October 2002 ruling by the International Court of Justice on the land and maritime boundary between the two countries; (iv) from 6 to 11 October 2005, during which the Secretary-General addressed the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), met with the President of the Swiss Confederation, Samuel Schmid, in Bern, and took part in the Symposium on Investing Private Capital in Micro and Small Business Finance organized by the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN) and the Geneva Financial Center as part of the Geneva activities to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations; and (v) on 26 October 2005 to address the



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Ministerial-level Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Communities Affected by the Earthquake in South-Asia.

In his capacity as the Secretary-General's representative and in support of his efforts, the UNOG Director-General met with many of the dignitaries visiting Geneva for an exchange of views and to promote the priorities of the Organization. The Director-General also supported the Secretary-General, as a member of his delegation, on several political missions. This included attending, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, hosted by the Club of Madrid, between 8 and 11 March 2005, where the Secretary-General presented a global strategy for fighting terrorism. At the Summit, the Director-General also took part in a panel discussion on how to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. He helped advance the objectives of the United Nations by supporting the Secretary-General, as his representative, at a number of international gatherings, including at the United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine (Geneva, 8–9 March 2005), the inauguration of the Ministry of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI (Rome, 24 April 2005), the Ninth St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (St. Petersburg, 13–17 June 2005), the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Middle East Peace (Paris, 12–13 July 2005), the inauguration of the President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Kurmanbek Bakiyev (Bishkek, 14 August 2005) and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Finland's membership of the United Nations (Helsinki, 14 December 2005).

### **Collaborating within the United Nations family**

Information-sharing, cooperation and coordination at all levels on matters of common concern—within the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations family—are the key to effective policy development and timely implementation. As a participant in the weekly meetings of the Senior Management Group, an important forum for providing guidance on cross-cutting issues comprising all heads of Secretariat departments, and United Nations offices, funds and programmes, the Director-General contributes to critical exchanges of information and experience among the most senior-level managers within the Organization. The Director-General also takes part in the discussions of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, which serves as a central instrument for facilitating policy planning, decision-making and management in this core area of the Organization's work.

In 2005, UNOG strengthened its long-standing cooperation with the Organization's agencies, programmes and funds, through meetings and periodic exchanges of information, including in support of the MDGs and the Secretary-General's United Nations reform initiative. UNOG continues to participate in meetings of the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations system and liaises regularly with various inter-agency bodies as well as the inter-governmental organizations based in Geneva to facilitate effective inter-agency cooperation and promote the goals of the Organization. During the year, UNOG participated in several meetings and conferences, including the fifty-eighth World Health Assembly, which adopted the International Health Regulations and completed its Polio Eradication Action Plan; the annual session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which evaluated the evolution of parameters affecting global climatic change; the fortieth series of meetings of the Assemblies of member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization, which updated the financing mechanism for international patents and copyrights; the annual Council of Administration of the Universal Postal Union, which assessed the impact of electronic commerce to the global postal system; the eighty-ninth Special Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that highlighted the need to define the status of internally displaced people within the existing migration and refugee framework; and the ninety-third session of the International Labour Conference, which stated that an International Labour Organization (ILO) plan of action to promote youth employment should continue in accordance with the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN), which should be extended to both developing and developed countries. UNOG was also present at the Doha Round discussions of the General Council of the World Trade Organization leading to the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference and was an observer at the numerous working party accession meetings of Member States ranging from Algeria to Yemen. UNOG also assisted in different ways, political and organizational, during the sixty-first session of the Human Rights Commission, as well as the Geneva and Tunis venues of the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society and its Preparatory Committees.

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## Facilitating the efforts of the diplomatic community

Close cooperation with the diplomatic community being a priority for UNOG, dialogue enables more efficient collaboration and effective communication and is part of continuous efforts to ensure optimum working conditions for the diplomatic community and strengthen the multilateral process.

In the context of the ongoing efforts of UNOG to support and facilitate the work of the diplomatic community in Geneva, the Director-General continued his regular, informal exchanges with the ambassadors of Geneva-based regional groups—Asian States, African States, the Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States—on issues of mutual interest and concern. The meetings focused on a number of issues ranging from the 2005 World Summit, security and safety of diplomatic representatives, staff and visitors at the Palais des Nations, the UNOG Cultural Activities Programme and the sixtieth anniversary celebrations as well as the particular concerns of each regional group. The consultations, which provide an additional platform for information-sharing and exchange of opinions between UNOG and the diplomatic community, have been very well received by Member States who have welcomed the support and assistance received from UNOG.

By assisting the diplomatic community, the host country authorities, United Nations entities and the non-United Nations family of organizations, UNOG plays a central role in enhancing the process of international cooperation and understanding of the Geneva diplomatic scene, and in furthering the smooth functioning of all aspects of multilateral diplomacy. It also facilitates the participation of high-level visitors, such as Heads of State and Government and ministers for foreign affairs, particularly during the High-Level Segments of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Conference on Disarmament. ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO) also solicit UNOG assistance and expertise on a regular basis during their respective conferences in the Palais des Nations. In 2005, UNOG continued to provide assistance and advice on protocol matters to, among others, the permanent missions of Member States of the United Nations based in Geneva, whose total number now stands at 158 with the latest addition, since January 2005, of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chad, the host country, as well as United Nations entities. UNOG also provided assistance during the visit of the President of the General Assembly, Jan Eliasson, to Geneva from 19 to 23 November 2005 during which he held consultations with various members of the international community.

### High-level visits to UNOG-2005

Personalities	Number of visits
Secretary-General	5
Presidents, vice-presidents and heads of State	10
Prime ministers and deputy prime ministers	4
Ministers of foreign affairs	77
Ministers and secretaries of State	39
Other dignitaries	21
<b>Total number of visits in 2005</b>	<b>156</b>

### Strengthening the rule of law

One of the founding principles of the United Nations was to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the commitments arising from treaties and other international law can be maintained. As stated in the Secretary-General's report, "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", the Millennium Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of all nations to the rule of law as the all-important framework for advancing human security and prosperity. The 2005 World Summit made important progress in the area of the "responsibility to protect". For the first time the entire United Nations membership accepted clearly that it had a collective responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. UNOG continues its efforts in supporting the work of the Secretary-General in strengthening the rule of law. This includes drawing attention to this critical issue through its work with regional organizations as well as research and academic communities in Geneva. In addition, UNOG supports these efforts by providing administrative support to the International Law Commission (ILC), which held its sessions in May/June and July/August 2005 at the Palais des Nations. ILC advanced in its analysis of fundamental topics of international public law, including unilateral acts; diplomatic protection; international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law; fragmentation of international law; unilateral acts of States; reservations to treaties; shared natural resources; and responsibility of international organizations.

In conjunction with ILC, UNOG organized and directed the forty-first session of the International Law Seminar. The seminar was attended by 24 carefully selected young diplomats and academics specializing in public international law. Participants from developing countries received scholarships

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for their travel and/or stay in Geneva. The three-week seminar consisted of lectures given by members of ILC, who take part in working groups that examine particular issues of interest to ILC. The participants also observe the deliberations of the Commission. The Director-General, jointly with the ILC Chairman, presided over the closing ceremony of the seminar.

### **Addressing disarmament and non-proliferation**

Disarmament and non-proliferation remain indispensable tools to help create a security environment favourable to ensuring human development, as enshrined in the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. UNOG continues to be an important venue for international diplomacy in this field. It is home to the Conference on Disarmament—the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body—and hosts a large number of disarmament-related conferences. The Director-General is also Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Conference.

The 2005 World Summit marked an important opportunity for countries to consider how to strengthen our system of collective security. However, the failure of countries to find common ground to address disarmament and non-proliferation only served to highlight the urgency of addressing these issues. In the face of modern challenges and threats, UNOG will continue to give support and assistance to the Conference on Disarmament.

During the course of the year, the Conference on Disarmament continued to suffer from the prolonged absence of an agreement on a programme of work, a situation that has persisted for almost a decade and which has effectively prevented the Conference from actively engaging in negotiations on such important issues as the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, prevention of an arms race in outer space and effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. It was hoped that in 2005 the Conference could take advantage of the momentum created by other key events in the same year, such as the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as the 2005 World Summit. Both, however, have proved to have suffered from the persisting stagnation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Failure to address the increasingly widespread proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials will increase the risk of their use by States and also of their acquisition and use by terrorist groups. The inability to

reach agreement on disarmament in the area of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear non-proliferation at the 2005 World Summit is especially disconcerting given that weapons of mass destruction pose a real and serious danger to mankind. Progress on these issues is essential for our collective security and for the well-being of future generations, which is why efforts must continue as a priority.

In 2005, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction continued to build on its past successes. The Convention has experienced unparalleled accomplishments in reducing the stocks and use of anti-personnel landmines, as well as in supporting the victims of these inhumane weapons. The First Review Conference, which was held in 2004, established a multi-pronged platform for future action in the four core domains of the Convention: universalization, mine clearance, stockpile destruction and victim assistance.

Intensive efforts in Geneva within the Group of Governmental Experts of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) have resulted in the adoption at the 2003 Meeting of States Parties of a new international legally binding instrument—the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, annexed to the Convention. This new Protocol is aimed at reducing the humanitarian hazard posed to civilians by unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war.

Moreover, the Group of Governmental Experts has continued its work in 2005. Accordingly, the Group continues to consider proposals and ideas on the issue of Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) with the aim of elaborating appropriate recommendations for submission to the next Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, as well as to consider the implementation of existing principles of international humanitarian law and to study further possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including sub-munitions.

The States parties to the CCW Amended Protocol II, dealing with the threat posed by landmines, booby-traps and other devices, continue to meet on an annual basis and discuss ways and means of strengthening the implementation of the Protocol and its universalization.

The States parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention have continued their work as agreed at the Fifth Review Conference resumed in 1992. During 2005, States parties intensively addressed the issue of a code of conduct for scientists. The year 2006 will be a crucial one for the Convention, as the States parties will gather for the Sixth Review Conference.



## II. Constructive partnerships: a common vision

The implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome calls for the input of all stakeholders. Collective efforts and the contribution of all actors, including Member States, civil society, including NGOs and the private sector, the greater United Nations family as well as other international organizations, are vital in achieving our objectives. Throughout 2005, UNOG continued collaborating with the diplomatic community in Geneva, as well as building on its partnerships with regional and intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the Geneva and other Swiss-based research and academic communities. UNOG also continued to work closely with and build on its excellent relations with the host country authorities.

### **Maintaining host country relations**

Throughout 2005, the Director-General continued to build on UNOG's constructive partnership and maintained excellent working relations with the host country, in all areas and at all levels, including federal, cantonal and municipal, which are vital for the entire United Nations family and the diplomatic community at large in Geneva. The close cooperation between UNOG and the host country is reflected in the successful functioning of numerous international conferences, both at the Palais des Nations and outside, as well as in the areas of security, diplomatic privileges and immunities. The Diplomatic Committee has continued to provide a useful platform for addressing and finding solutions to the multifaceted concerns of the diplomatic community in Geneva, with the continued cooperation both of UNOG and the host country. It therefore also serves as an additional solid



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bridge in relations between the host country and UNOG. This year, Switzerland has continued to be actively engaged in issues relating to the United Nations reform agenda. It had, in particular, a pivotal role in the debate on reform of the Human Rights Commission leading to the creation of a Geneva-based Human Rights Council. The strong support of the host country (from federal, cantonal and municipal authorities) has also been evident this year in its contribution to the activities organized in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations.

### **Cooperating with regional and other intergovernmental organizations**

In accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, regional organizations play an important role in assisting the efforts of the United Nations towards the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in achieving the pacific settlement of disputes. During recent years, regional organizations have increasingly become key partners for the United Nations, and the Secretary-General encourages closer and more effective cooperation in this regard.

In line with this policy, the Secretary-General convenes and chairs high-level meetings between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations. These gatherings, which have been taking place biannually thus far and are expected to take place annually from 2006, provide an important opportunity for strengthening the bonds and practical cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations. The Director-General most recently participated, at United Nations Headquarters, in the sixth of these high-level meetings, which took place from 25 to 26 July 2005 under the theme of "United Nations-regional organizations: partnership for a more secure world". The meeting included an exchange of views on the findings and implications of the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and the Secretary-General's "In larger freedom" report, as well as the changes and challenges confronting the participating organizations.

In a joint statement, participants agreed that closer cooperation must become an institutionalized feature of the relationship between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations. To this end,

they resolved to take several specific organizational measures, including, among others, concluding agreements of appropriate kinds between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations, convening a high-level meeting annually, and establishing a Standing Committee to act as an initiator of ideas, a generator of political consensus and a monitor of the implementation of consensus.

UNOG contributed to the preparation of the Sixth High-Level Meeting by facilitating, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, a series of working-level meetings in Geneva. Taking place from 14 to 15 December 2004 and from 25 to 27 April 2005, the working-group meetings focused on six areas: dialogue among civilizations; protection of civilians, with discussions being led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); lessons learned from field experience, the debates being led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; conflict prevention and peacebuilding, with discussions led by the Department of Political Affairs; protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism, headed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and the creation of standing inspection capacity for biological weapons and ballistic missiles, with debates chaired by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. At the meetings, decisions were taken on draft texts for the consideration of heads of organizations at the Sixth High-Level Meeting.

In support of the Secretary-General's efforts in this area, the Director-General contributes to facilitating cooperation with regional organizations, in particular those based in Europe. In this context, UNOG represents the United Nations in the tripartite process, a framework of informal consultations between the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe, with the participation of the European Union, represented by the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, IOM and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

On 18 February 2005, the Director-General led the United Nations delegation at the fourteenth annual high-level tripartite meeting. The United Nations family and related bodies were represented by the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Public Information, ECE, OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United

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Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The main theme of this year's informal discussions was "The rule of law" and they were hosted by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

In a joint communiqué, participants pledged to work together to promote the rule of law, which was recognized as a prerequisite for maintaining and building peace, consolidating democracy and promoting sustainable development. Reiterating the need for a common and effective framework for responding to terrorism in accordance with the rule of law, participating organizations recognized the importance of arms control and disarmament as part of the global fight against terrorism. In this context, they stressed the need for universal adherence to and implementation of international treaties against proliferation of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons to complement global counter-terrorism efforts. It was agreed that UNOG would host the next meeting in 2006.

### **Engaging with the research and academic communities**

Innovation and fresh approaches in policy must spring from and rest on detailed research and analysis. In this respect, engagement between policymakers and experts—both from within and outside the United Nations family—is critical to renewal and change. In line with the Secretary-General's reform efforts, UNOG therefore maintains and facilitates partnership building in support of the work of the United Nations and serves as an interface between Geneva and other Swiss-based research and academic institutions and the Geneva-based United Nations family.

Through collaborative initiatives that encourage continued interaction between policymakers and researchers and by furthering networks, UNOG seeks to stimulate and strengthen an inclusive, forward-looking debate that cuts across thematic and institutional boundaries. In this way, UNOG contributes to the integration of pertinent expertise and experience in the daily activities of the Organization to help realize our shared objectives.

On 27 October 2005, within the framework of the ongoing cooperation of UNOG with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Director-General co-hosted, with the Director of DCAF, Theodor Winkler, the third annual joint UNOG-DCAF seminar entitled "Security and

post-conflict peacebuilding: the role of the United Nations". The seminar was attended by high-level representatives of the diplomatic community in Geneva, Geneva-based United Nations entities, NGOs and prominent think tanks. The participants analysed lessons learned in ensuring security in post-conflict peacebuilding processes, considered the complex linkages between security and others aspects of peacebuilding, such as humanitarian assistance, development and human rights. They looked ahead to how these multidimensional efforts might be strengthened as a contribution to the ongoing international deliberations on the critical topic of post-conflict peacebuilding, especially in the light of the decision taken at the 2005 World Summit to establish a Peacebuilding Commission. As per past practice, the presentations will be published in an edited volume for wide dissemination so that the views and proposals presented at the seminar can inform and guide ongoing international discussions on this highly important topic.

Together with the United Nations University (UNU), UNOG convenes the Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue (GRPD), which brings together representatives of a wide variety of United Nations entities, international research institutions and think tanks. As a forum for information-sharing, policy discussions and additional networking, GRPD is an important mechanism for engagement between researchers and policymakers within the United Nations family and external experts. Preparations are under way for the sixth GRPD, which is scheduled to take place in the first half of 2006.

As observer ex officio of the Foundation Board of the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN), an international research network founded by the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute of International Studies and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, the Director-General contributes to facilitating collaborative efforts between academic and research entities and international organizations – both governmental and non-governmental.

UNOG also maintains a working-level dialogue with other members of the Geneva and other Swiss-based academic and research community with a view to encouraging research and debate that may benefit policy development and planning within the United Nations family and provide better information on the potential of "intellectual Geneva".

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## Cooperating with non-governmental organizations

The important role of civil society, especially of NGOs in the international arena, is fully recognized by the United Nations. There are more than 2,800 NGOs worldwide that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Approximately 330 of these have their headquarters or an office of representation in Switzerland, and 260 of them are based in Geneva. A primary function of UNOG vis-à-vis civil society is to inform and advise, as appropriate, the NGO community on the activities of the United Nations and the greater United Nations family, as well as on opportunities for increased partnerships between the Organization and NGOs. In addition, UNOG assists interested NGOs in obtaining information on the procedure for attaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. For those NGOs who already benefit from such consultative status, UNOG regularly provides updates on the work of the Organization and organizes briefings on issues of interest to this community. UNOG also assists accredited NGOs in arranging meetings, conferences and debates at the Palais des Nations—on a variety of issues ranging from human rights and humanitarian assistance to economic and social development, environment, peace and security—as well as facilitating their contacts with United Nations entities in Geneva. As part of its responsibilities, UNOG also briefs academia, the diplomatic community, the private sector and other interested audiences on the partnership between the United Nations and NGOs.

During the course of 2005, there was particular interest on the part of NGOs—both from those accredited to the Economic and Social Council and those that are not—in the ongoing United Nations reform process and how they might be able to engage in this process. With the support of UNOG, civil society's inputs have enriched debates in Geneva and have brought the specific field experience of NGOs to such discussions. NGOs are regarded by the international community as essential actors in the process of United Nations reform. Clear indications of the significance of their contribution have been highlighted in recent years, including, among others, in the report of the Secretary-General in response to the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations and the "In larger freedom ..." report of the Secretary-General. This was also acknowledged during the course of the July 2005 informal hearings of the President of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly with representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and

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the private sector leading up to the 2005 World Summit. As part of the implementation of the World Summit Outcome, the President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly met with the NGO communities in New York and Geneva.

Bearing in mind ongoing United Nations reform efforts and supportive of, among others, the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome, UNOG will continue to work closely with the NGO community in collaboration with Geneva-based United Nations entities.



### *III.* Facilitation of negotiations in the service of peace

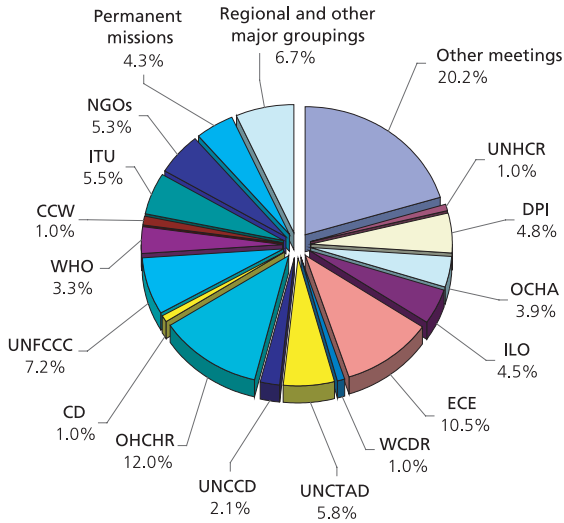
*U*NOG provides the fundamental infrastructure for multilateral debate and the enhancement of the multilateral decision-making process. Planning of meetings, translation and publishing of conference documents supported by interpretation services for meetings in the six official languages of the United Nations contribute to successful and effective conference servicing.

#### **A global centre for meetings**

Being one of the largest conference centres in the world, UNOG provides both the physical infrastructure in which negotiators undertake their work and the conference planning, coordination and servicing functions required to ensure that meetings are properly scheduled and serviced. During 2005, UNOG continued to conduct regular consultations with United Nations bodies and organs for which it has conference-servicing responsibility to assess and assist in formulating their concrete conference-servicing needs and entitlements, thus achieving a maximum use of resources and facilities. An illustration of this has been the very active communication between UNOG and other duty stations and specialized agencies leading to an increased exchange of interpreters with United Nations Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. As a result of these efforts, the utilization factor of resources rose to 91 per cent in 2005. Furthermore, the overall planning accuracy factor, i.e. ratio of services planned against services used, is about 95 per cent at UNOG.

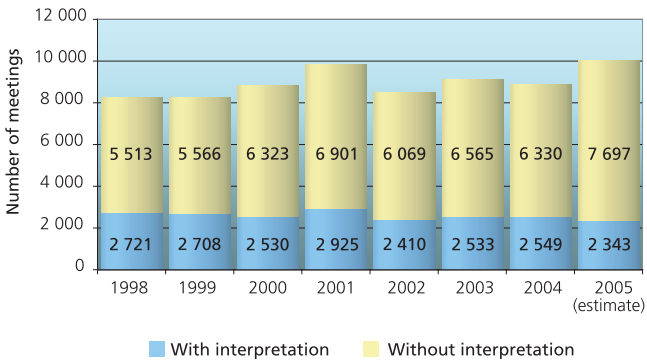


### MEETINGS-Principal Users in 2005



10 040 meetings with and without interpretation (estimate)  
Emeets source

### MEETINGS-Held or serviced by UNOG, 1998-2005



In July 2005, the Director-General led a team to the sixth Coordination Meeting of Conference Managers held at UNON, which addressed a whole range of issues on global conference management. Representatives of UNOG made an information technology presentation on the creation of a comprehensive database for conference servicing worldwide including the development of the linkage between meetings and documentation databases. UNOG staff members chaired two task forces to improve global management of conference services in four United Nations duty stations: one on documentation and publishing, the other on examinations and training.

UNOG acts as the primary interlocutor with Governments that offer to host United Nations conferences. In that role, it advises host countries on all physical and human resource requirements for the holding of such conferences. During 2005, UNOG successfully coordinated and provided services to conferences such as the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan (January 2005), the sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn, Germany (May 2005), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Bonn (May 2005) and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Montreal, Canada (November-December 2005). UNOG also provided its services to events organized by UNCCD in Kenya, by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Turkey and by the States parties to the Mine-Ban Convention in Croatia. These activities continue to serve the goal of reinforcing links between the United Nations and its Member States in their joint efforts to find solutions to the problems confronting the Organization.

### **Facilitating dialogue and understanding through multilingualism**

Communications and contacts were established with different institutions in different parts of the world to service the workload requiring contractual translation. In this respect, a delegation from the China Translation and Publishing Corporation (CTPC) and Interdialect from the Russian Federation visited UNOG to strengthen ties and establish closer cooperation. Training programmes were organized to sharpen the skills of language professionals. UNOG organized a three-day conference on computer-assisted translation within the framework of the Joint Inter-Agency Meeting on Computer-Assisted Translation and Terminology (JIAMCATT), UNOG serving as the secretariat of JIAMCATT.



Digital dictation and computer-assisted translation were among the avenues explored for the facilitation of conference-servicing work at UNOG. Currently, testing and training is ongoing simultaneously. It is expected that these measures will result in increased efficiency in the Languages Service.

To facilitate the effective use of interpretation services, a booklet entitled *Advice for Participants at Meetings with Interpretation* was published. It serves as a guide for delegates on the functioning of the interpretation services in the six official languages of the United Nations.

### **Servicing of meetings in the information age**

In 2005, UNOG in close coordination with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) undertook the introduction, installation and implementation of the electronic Meetings Scheduling and Resource Allocation System (eMeets) as recommended in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General. Briefings were conducted for the main substantive secretariats in order to facilitate use of this system. As a result of these efforts, some of them are now in a position to submit requests for meetings and facilities electronically. The use of the system will be extended to the specialized agencies and permanent missions based in Geneva. Recent experience has demonstrated that eMeets is an efficient tool for the effective management of UNOG facilities and the conference calendar as well as for the enhancement of the global management of conference services as mandated by the General Assembly.

The newly created conference calendar within the framework of the UNOG web site has enabled permanent missions and delegates to improve planning of their activities through having on-line information on the scheduling of the various meetings. The electronic flow of documents and the integration of systems allow automated attachment of documents to conference events posted on the UNOG web site's calendar of conferences. Efforts to satisfy requests from Member States for electronic access to United Nations documentation included setting up a Cyberspace for delegates to meetings and developing a Web-based mailing list program. Subscribers to the mailing list are now able to modify their addresses and requests for documents via the Internet, including opting to obtain electronic copies via the Official Document System (ODS) of the United Nations. All initiatives have been well received. Electronic dissemination of United Nations documentation using

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Internet technology was implemented for internal sharing of conference documents, with the idea of extending electronic distribution to Member States in 2006 via the web site and CD-ROM. Additionally, efforts were made to reduce print runs of documents by encouraging delegates to access electronic versions, thus achieving economies in hard-copy distribution. These measures were undertaken in addition to the increased use of ODS at the document distribution counters. In the area of e-publishing work continues on the development of a CD-ROM prototype for meeting documentation.

### **Sharing our expertise**

Over the past year, UNOG provided conference and documentation support to 10,040 intergovernmental meetings and many other events. These included the Conference on Disarmament, various meetings on human rights, meetings of the Secretary-General's Group of Friends of Georgia and of the Nigeria-Cameroon Mixed Commission, the latter with the participation of the Secretary-General. The Palais des Nations was the venue for the third and final Preparatory Committee meeting for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in September just prior to the event itself in Tunis, held from 16 to 18 November 2005, which was viewed as an important forum for tackling the North-South digital divide and Internet governance. In support of this event, UNOG produced television features to raise awareness of the Summit. Radio and television staff from UNOG were part of the Department of Public Information coverage team in Tunis.

### **Documenting for the future**

In 2005 UNOG concentrated its efforts on both upstream and downstream planning and organization of work, in order to comply with the existing General Assembly regulations on control and limitation of documentation. Further measures were taken to provide services in a cost-effective way at all levels of the document processing chain and to issue the required documents in a timely manner for the appropriate consideration of intergovernmental bodies. Documentation requirements were closely monitored, resulting in earlier submission and issuance of documents for key meetings. UNOG has as an indicator of achievement—96 per cent of documents issued on time, submitted in a timely manner and within page limits.

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In line with decisions relating to the reform of DGACM, client satisfaction surveys were carried out during some important conferences held at the Palais des Nations and elsewhere. The results of the six surveys, which were organized during the period 2004–2005, are positive and provide useful information for the planning and implementation of the future activities of the Conference Services Division.



## IV. Public outreach and collaboration with the media

*A*s the United Nations celebrated its 60 years in service to humankind, UNOG worked to convey the clear and persuasive message to its global audience that its principles and purposes, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, remained as valid and relevant today as they were in 1945. As part of the Department of Public Information's new strategic approach, UNOG has been concentrating on key messages with special emphasis this year on the United Nations reform process, the realization of the MDGs, the Secretary-General's "In larger freedom ..." report, and the observance of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations.

This past year brought substantial media coverage of United Nations activities originating in Geneva. UNOG works towards building awareness about its work, its scope and the impact of its many programmes and policies. It accomplishes this by communicating messages, such as those mentioned, to the Geneva-based media, the thousands of visitors who walk through the hallways of the Palais des Nations, and a wider audience.

### Connecting with the media

The strength of the United Nations is drawn from the span of its partnerships and from its ability to bring those partners into effective coalitions to advance the goals of the Organization. The media is one such partner whose role is invaluable in imparting the messages stemming from the various United Nations entities. Strengthening the UNOG partnership with the media, thus enhancing its public image and its ability to drive media coverage of its activities, has been a central goal of the UNOG Information Service.



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The international media is kept abreast of new developments and ongoing efforts in the global arena through biweekly press briefings chaired by UNOG and attended by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Some 200 resident correspondents are accredited to UNOG on a permanent basis, and there are several hundred on temporary assignments. Additionally, UNOG organizes individual press conferences with visiting officials and experts on a host of issues. The year saw a total of 261 of these specialized press conferences. Amongst these were Carol Bellamy's last press conference in her capacity as Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the first Geneva press conference by the High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, and that of the Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft, Bill Gates, who on 16 May 2005 made a pledge of US\$ 250 million to fight infectious diseases.

UNOG has strengthened its monitoring of media around the world by providing senior officials with press material and analyses and has strengthened its media outreach capacity while working closely with other United Nations offices based in Geneva.

UNOG continued to give extensive radio and television coverage to broadcasters throughout the world through United Nations Radio New York and international news entities such as the European Broadcasting Union, Reuters TV and Associated Press TV. A new partnership was developed with Euroradio, the audio arm of the European Broadcasting Union, offering new outlets for United Nations radio material produced in Geneva and New York.

UNOG provided television production services to a number of departments and agencies and produced a number of features and video compilations on human rights and humanitarian affairs, including a film for the Secretary-General's launch of the annual Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal. Additionally, UNOG produced films on small islands for the United Nations Conference on Small Islands in Mauritius and on the Palais des Nations art collection as part of the activities marking the sixtieth anniversary. It also co-produced a film with UNDP on development projects for nomads in Morocco.

In addition, UNOG organized and chaired numerous press briefings, including updates on all activities related to the sixtieth anniversary and produced and designed a variety of promotional materials. UNOG gave prominence to the release of the Secretary-General's reform proposals

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contained in his “In larger freedom ...” report, which was of particular interest to Geneva-based media given the proposals contained therein to overhaul the Commission on Human Rights, and for changing the Commission into a Human Rights Council.

### **Acting in face of global disasters**

The year began in the aftermath of the tsunami tragedy in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia on 26 December 2004. From the early days of the humanitarian response, given the enormous media attention the subject generated, UNOG provided media support to OCHA and the Geneva-based Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). UNOG organized 23 press conferences in connection with the natural disaster alone. In addition, UNOG provided extensive coverage of the donors meeting held on 6 January 2005, which was transmitted to broadcasters worldwide. UNOG also worked closely with ISDR to help publicize the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18–22 January 2005), which was held just three weeks after the tsunami, and was involved in all media aspects leading up to and at the event itself. Thanks in part to those efforts, the event generated over 400 articles by major newspapers worldwide.

As part of the UNOG Cultural Activities Programme, a Concert of Peace was also held at the beginning of the year dedicated to the memory of all victims of the tsunami natural disaster, with the cooperation and participation of the permanent missions of the affected countries. Geneva-based United Nations staff also came together to collaborate and contribute actively in support of this tragedy. For this purpose, the Director-General and the Staff Coordination Council initiated a collection of clothes and emergency items from United Nations staff in Geneva following the disaster and the Council simultaneously opened an account for voluntary contributions, which saw an unprecedented response from staff members of the entire United Nations family.

Among the various human rights events organized was a seminar entitled “The United Nations Commission on Human Rights: an evolution” which was held at the Palais des Nations from 19 to 21 July 2005 by the World Federation of United Nations Associations in cooperation with OHCHR. Participants were welcomed by the Director-General as well as by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and a representative of the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights.

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UNOG also produced some of the first television and radio coverage drawing attention to the food crisis in Niger. United Nations television news and feature material following the visit to Niger of the Commission on Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on the right to food was broadcast widely throughout the world, which prompted wider international media coverage and helped to stimulate donor contributions. UNOG television coverage of the Secretary-General's subsequent visit to Niger was carried by a number of major international broadcasters as well.

### **Informing the public**

Throughout the year, UNOG organized over 47 information programmes intended to provide a better understanding of the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes based in Geneva. These programmes are tailored for students, diplomats, public servants and representatives from NGOs and other associations coming from all over the world. Among the themes discussed in these programmes last year were human rights, humanitarian affairs, disarmament, peacekeeping, the reform of the United Nations and the sixtieth anniversary.

During the year, UNOG organized, for the third year running, an event for the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers commemorated on 31 May 2005 to pay tribute to the soldiers who had made the ultimate sacrifice to serve the cause of peace. Another highlight was the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Geneva Summit between President Reagan and President Gorbachev, which raised great interest from international Geneva.

Building on a long-standing tradition, UNOG coordinated its three-week annual Graduate Study Programme aimed at involving young people in the work of the Organization. In 2005, 82 outstanding postgraduate students from 40 countries were selected to take part in the forty-third Graduate Study Programme aptly titled "The United Nations at sixty: the road ahead". The end result was a comprehensive report authored by the students in which they offered a constructive critique of the Organization at this turning point in its history.

The Visitors' Service continues to serve as an important public outreach tool that allows close to 100,000 visitors each year to see first-hand the place where many of the major decisions that affect humankind are made and to learn about the work of the United Nations family in Geneva.

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## The UNOG web site

The provision of accurate and timely information about the activities of UNOG is essential in keeping our partners informed of our efforts. At the end of 2004, UNOG undertook the task of redeveloping, redesigning and expanding the UNOG web site, which has been very well received. In the age that we live in, the central role of the Internet as a valuable resource and tool both for information-sharing and retrieving is undeniable. The new web site comprises comprehensive and frequently updated information on the work of UNOG, as well as documents, press releases and information resources of interest on its efforts. It also includes, as requested by the diplomatic community, a user-friendly Geneva Web calendar, which provides an easily accessible information source for meetings and conferences of the United Nations entities based in Geneva. UNOG has been working closely with the wider United Nations family in order to make the calendar as complete and useful as possible. As part of the activities to mark the sixtieth anniversary celebrations, the web site now also includes a virtual tour of the Palais des Nations.

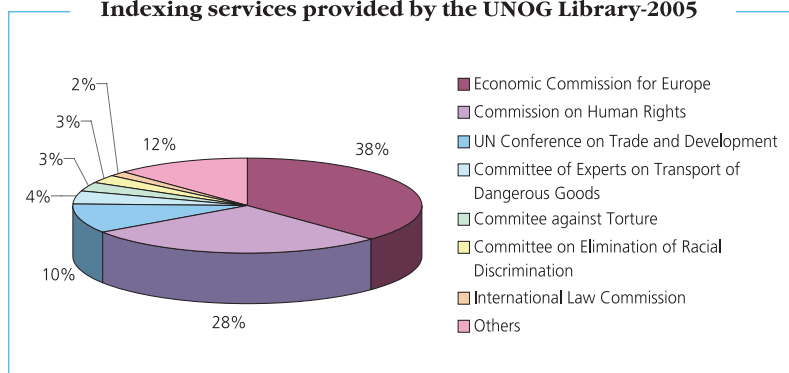


## V. A centre for knowledge and research

*T*hroughout the year, UNOG, through its library, has continued to implement the goals established in the Secretary-General's report entitled, "Modernization and integrated management of United Nations libraries: new strategic directions". UNOG objectives have remained focused on increasing efficiency, improving quality, harnessing technology to improve services and facilitating a knowledge-enabling environment, as well as providing measurable and sustainable value for its users.

United Nations libraries play a role similar to that of a national library in that they are responsible for preserving and maintaining access to all the materials published by the Organization. The UNOG Library provides indexing services for all documents of the Commission on Human Rights, ECE, UNCTAD, ILC and others.

**Indexing services provided by the UNOG Library-2005**



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## **Institutional memory**

UNOG is the custodian of 10.5 linear kilometres of League of Nations and UNOG archives, which form part of the Organization's memory. The UNOG archives represent 7.5 linear kilometres of records originating, since 1945, from the Office of the Director-General, the Division of Administration and different United Nations departments and offices, which operate or operated in Geneva.

UNOG has introduced a record-keeping system for archives to UNOG departments and services to ensure the safeguard of the institutional memory. Good record-keeping demonstrates the accountability of each staff member and allows a smooth transfer of responsibility and the continuity of operations.

Since the transfer of the UNOG archives to the Library in 2001, demands to consult them have constantly increased as a result of a new policy to make the holdings more accessible to the public. To assist researchers in identifying records relating to their subject of research, simple descriptions of the archival holdings of the League of Nations and UNOG have been made available online. Between 2002 and August 2005, use by external researchers of the UNOG archives reading room has increased sixfold. External research requests by correspondence have increased by 85 per cent and internal consultation by 40 per cent. Visits to the League of Nations archives reading room have increased by 60 per cent.

The most popular research subjects in the UNOG archives are human rights and economic development. Transport, population, refugees, trade and historic events of political importance are also of special interest to researchers.

## **Building understanding through knowledge**

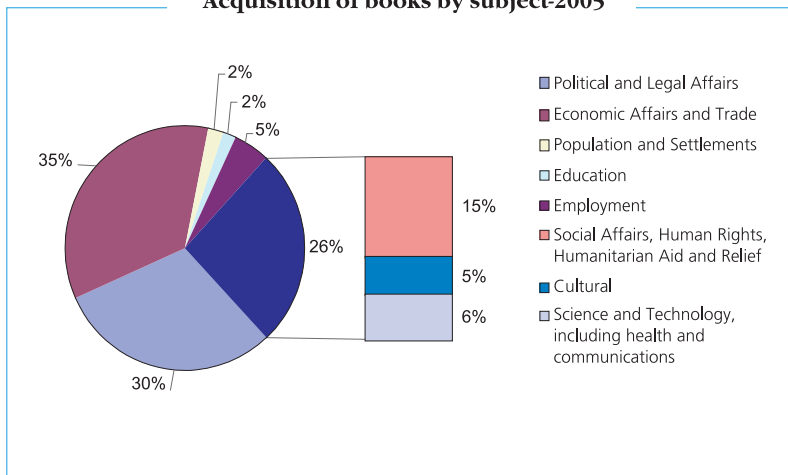
As well as safeguarding the material in its keeping, UNOG works on widening access to the recorded knowledge of the Organization so that as many people as possible gain access to the wealth of knowledge held by UNOG on their behalf. This year has seen a major development in this area: UNOG has launched a project for digitization of pre-1993 United Nations documents, making them available on the Internet through the ODS public web site. From April to December 2005, UNOG digitized approximately 18,000 documents, representing about 110,000 pages, including Security Council documents in the context of a common programme with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and documents of the Commission on Human Rights, as well as items digitized for ad hoc projects.

With regard to its preservation mandate, UNOG has produced microfiches for approximately 50,000 pages of United Nations documents.

Responding to the needs of its users, this year the UNOG Library extended its opening hours during key conferences and events at the Palais des Nations. Library briefings and a movable reference kiosk near conference areas give participants an introduction to the Library's services and resources. The physical structure of the open-access collection has been redesigned to serve the needs of the public better. Loan regulations have been significantly enlarged: the maximum number of publications loaned has been increased, United Nations staff members can place online loan requests directly from their office workstations, and requests for consultation by external visitors are processed four times a day.

Building its collections is critical to the UNOG Library's strength as a centre of international research and an instrument of international understanding. Throughout the year, UNOG has continued to acquire material in print and develop digital formats, ensuring that both are accessible in new ways: new books acquired in print format can now be browsed on the shelves of the "Recent Acquisitions Collection", where they are immediately available for loan; the full text of electronic publications can be accessed directly through the online catalogue.

**Acquisition of books by subject-2005**





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Along with the re-design of the UNOG web site, a freely available, user-friendly online catalogue for the collections of the UNOG Library and archives has been developed, giving access to more than 750,000 bibliographic records and links to the full text of electronic publications. Induction sessions on how to search the catalogue, how to place an online request and how to search ODS provide guidance to the novice user. During the past year, the UNOG Library conducted 37 training sessions for 610 trainees from permanent missions and the secretariat.

### **Collaborating with counterparts in a digital environment**

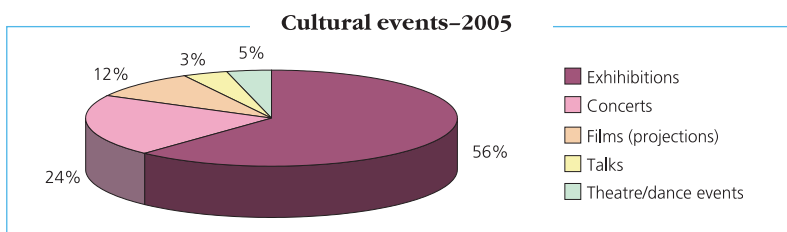
As the United Nations' second largest library, the UNOG Library has a key role to play in strategy formulation and policy finding. It has continued to be an active partner in the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, developing joint programmes and cooperation to generate savings, largely through common procurement, common specifications and sharing of best practices in information management.

The collaborative project with the Archives and Records Management Section (ARMS) at United Nations Headquarters to describe the human rights historical collection from 1946 to 1974 down to file level has been accomplished. This project represents a valuable contribution to worldwide research on human rights.

Collaboration continues with other United Nations libraries: the specialized library of ISDR, UNCTAD, IOM, the International Telecommunication Union, UNHCR, the Terminology and Technical Documentation Section and the UNOV library share the same library management system. The creation of this network marks yet another significant milestone in bringing United Nations research support to the forefront, as UNOG library staff provide system support and training in substantive skills to network libraries.

### **Cultural diversity**

Exhibitions, displays and other types of events are a platform of ongoing exchange among cultures and help to build greater understanding and respect among peoples. The UNOG Cultural Activities Programme is a valuable and successful way to promote understanding of the United Nations core values through art. During the past twelve months, 35 Member States and 17 organizations of the United Nations system participated in the conferences, exhibitions and concerts organized.



Geneva was the venue for a number of high-profile events in 2005, including the celebrations to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations. Permanent missions in Geneva demonstrated their support for the sixtieth anniversary celebrations, through a series of concerts, dance performances and exhibitions throughout the year. These provided us with an opportunity to consider how much the world has changed since the United Nations was founded and how these fundamental changes were made possible. The events in Geneva, which were planned in support of the activities in New York, in particular, the 2005 World Summit and the MDGs, took place during a four-month period, beginning on 26 June, the anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, and concluding on 24 October, United Nations Day. They were organized in collaboration with numerous partners, including Member States, the Geneva civil society and the Fondation pour Genève which united the efforts of other public and private partners in order to support UNOG in fulfilling an ambitious and successful agenda for the activities. These took place both inside and outside the Palais des Nations and were targeted both for Member States and the public at large.

**The following were among the highlights of the programme:**

**International exhibition of contemporary art: “A time for renewal”**

“A time for renewal”, an international exhibition of contemporary art devoted to the fundamental values of peace and development that the United Nations promotes, was opened on 27 June 2005 at the Palais des Nations. The artworks were selected by more than 60 permanent missions as being representative of their country and culture. The exhibition, which was organized entirely through the collaboration and financial support of Member States, included paintings, sculptures, tapestries, video installations, photographs and other media. At the exhibition’s opening, a musical performance was given at the Palais des Nations by a group of young virtuoso musicians representing various nations as part of a donation from the Kayaleh Foundation.

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### **Exhibition of photographs: “We the peoples ... families and development”**

A major exhibition of 180 large-format photographs by Uwe Ommer, illustrating the diversity of families throughout the world and highlighting the MDGs, was on display from September to November 2005 on the Quai Wilson, in front of Palais Wilson, making it easily accessible to the public at large. The photographs celebrated our common humanity and were a tribute to families everywhere. The exhibition was organized with the financial support of the city of Geneva, Loterie Romande, Fondation pour Genève, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf and the Geneva Welcome Centre.

### **Open house at the Palais, 25 September 2005: “Diplomat for a day”**

More than 6,000 people visited the Palais des Nations on Sunday, 25 September 2005, for a very successful public event entitled “Diplomat for a day”, organized jointly with the federal and local authorities and NGO partners. The programme at the Palais des Nations included debates, exhibitions, film screenings, musical performances, United Nations family information stands and an event sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Bahrain featuring some 200 artists and children from all over the world who painted pictures on the theme of “peace” symbolically portrayed on a wooden peace dove. The visit was made possible by United Nations staff members who took part on a voluntary basis without pay.

### **Concert, 8 October 2005:**

#### **“Youssou N’Dour & Friends United against Malaria”**

Internationally renowned Senegalese singer and songwriter Youssou N’Dour, joined by artists representing all five continents, performed at a major public concert attended by more than 8,000 people at the Arena concert hall in Geneva on Saturday, 8 October 2005. This unique event, organized jointly with and funded by the Fondation pour Genève, aimed to heighten public awareness of the global fight against malaria (one of the MDGs). The “United against Malaria” concert was recorded by Télévision Suisse Romande and broadcast just prior to United Nations Day on 22 October 2005; additionally, the European Broadcasting Union transmitted scenes of the concert to its network of 70 public broadcasters. The Secretary-General made a special guest appearance and addressed the audience who gave him a standing ovation.

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### **Seminar on microcredit**

The Secretary-General was among the speakers in the symposium, organized by CASIN and sponsored by the Geneva Financial Center, held on 10–11 October 2005 at WMO headquarters. The symposium, held jointly in the context of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005 and the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, showcased leading investment vehicles and business models in micro and small business finance.

### **Seminar on the future of the United Nations**

A seminar on the future of the United Nations, organized by the Graduate Institute of International Studies, with the support of the United Nations and the Fondation pour Genève, took place on 20 October 2005 at the Institute. Each of the three sessions, on security, development and human rights, attracted an audience of 250 participants.

### **Virtual visit of the Palais des Nations**

A virtual visit of the Palais des Nations was launched on 24 October 2005 on the occasion of United Nations Day, and is available on the UNOG web site ([www.unog.ch](http://www.unog.ch)). The visit proposes a virtual tour of the Palais des Nations, historic home of the United Nations in Geneva and the largest and most active centre for conference diplomacy in the world. The Chancery of the State of Geneva funded the design and production of the project, which was created and is maintained by UNOG.

### **United Nations Day concert at the Victoria Hall**

The sixtieth anniversary celebrations concluded on United Nations Day, 24 October 2005, with the annual classical music concert at the Victoria Hall offered to the United Nations by the City of Geneva.



## VI. Optimizing efficiency and accountability in management

*I*n the ongoing pursuit of its efforts to ensure effective management and administration, UNOG continued to provide cost-efficient, reliable and efficient support services to some 20 United Nations offices and 22 Geneva-based entities of the United Nations common system. UNOG offers a vast range of central support services in more than 30 occupational categories, including security officers, architects, engineers, electricians, gardeners, conference operators, drivers, buyers, procurement officers, travel and visa clerks and messengers.

### **Efficiency through common services for the common good**

UNOG strives to maintain and enhance the outstanding architectural and historical heritage of the Palais des Nations, its buildings, annexes (some 153,000 square metres and 2,800 offices), parks and gardens. In 2005, five of the 34 conference rooms were refurbished in order to bring them up to date with current technical standards. In this process, the renovated rooms were equipped with state-of-the-art interpretation booths, built-in projectors with modern audio-visual equipment and simultaneous interpretation facilities incorporating digital sound and electronic display of the language translated.

UNOG continued to provide various common services related to procurement, business travel, the issuance of United Nations documents and

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transportation and other services to more than 64 United Nations institutions based in Geneva and other duty stations. UNOG established some 4,000 contracts worth over US\$ 50 million, processed some 23,000 travel authorizations for some US\$ 28 million, secured some 4,300 visas, and handled approximately 18,600 United Nations official documents for Geneva-based organizations and agencies. UNOG is also investigating all avenues conducive to a more efficient usage of available resources. As a result, fuel consumption (heating oil) has decreased by 10 per cent, that of electricity by 6 per cent and water by 39 per cent over the past five years.

The experience, good practices, client orientation and efficiency of UNOG are made available to the other Geneva-based United Nations entities interested in joining existing platforms. In this context, UNOG continues to assume the leadership of the three-tier common services structure prescribed by the Secretary-General. The Management Ownership Committee chaired by the Director-General, assisted by the Task Force on Common Services and various working groups, is actively promoting common services initiatives at the local level. The Common Procurement Activities Group (CPAG) has contributed greatly to the consolidation of procurement activities and coordinated its efforts with the Task Force on Common Services. CPAG is made up of 11 Geneva-based United Nations international organizations, with the UNOG Purchase and Transportation Section acting as the permanent secretariat for the Group. CPAG is an essential platform used to share experiences, research and best practices, and coordinate procurement activities, with a view to promoting the standardization of procurement policies, standards, procedures and training programmes and, most importantly, benefiting from economy of scales in the international marketplace by pooling procurement volumes. The synergy achieved by CPAG has resulted in the realization of over nine procurement projects for which UNOG acted as the lead agency. These projects included the establishment of contracts for services such as airline and travel services, copier services, electricity and heating oil supply, which resulted in significant annual cost avoidances, in the order of US\$ 550,000 for electricity, US\$ 1 million for airline travel and US\$ 100'000 for heating oil, for UNOG alone.

In 2005 UNOG integrated the Medical Services Section (previously under the administration of WHO), which, under the general guidance of the

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Medical Services Division at United Nations Headquarters, performs medico-administrative and clinical functions. It also provides health counselling and environmental hygiene through a common-services framework to the client offices serviced by UNOG, as well as to a number of smaller organizations both in Geneva and at other duty stations.

### **Building a multifaceted workforce with the right skills**

UNOG provides a full range of human resource management activities, which include the recruitment, placement and promotion of staff and the administration of entitlements, for over 3,500 staff members in more than 30 client departments and offices based in Geneva, Bonn (Germany) and Turin (Italy), as well as in more than 60 field offices worldwide. In addition, more than 1,000 consultancy contracts are administered per year.

Particular attention is being given to expanding the UNOG role from that of “administrative servicing” to developing “strategic partnerships” with clients in order to reinforce and consolidate the institutionalization of the Secretary-General’s reform programme and to enhance further the provision of integrated human resource services to UNOG clients.

Staff development and career support are provided through training and learning programmes designed to help staff members acquire language skills and keep pace with changing technologies and the evolution of the Organization’s mandates.

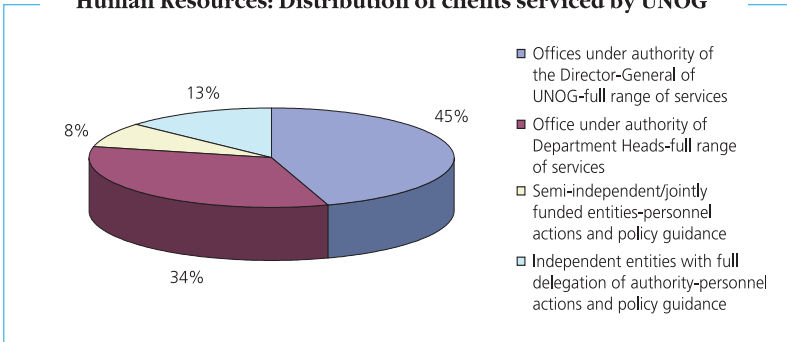
During 2005, a Career Support Centre opened at UNOG. It focuses, among other things, on supporting the Organization’s mobility policy and the Secretary-General’s overall strategy to increase the Organization’s capacity, as well as on meeting the development needs and career aspirations of staff by helping them to build and strengthen essential skills and competencies needed throughout their career.

Special emphasis is being placed on the implementation of managed mobility, strengthening of the staff selection system and performance management. UNOG is also striving to strengthen its human resource monitoring activities and promote best practices within its services and among client offices.



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### Human Resources: Distribution of clients serviced by UNOG



### Enhancing security

As of September 2005, the Director-General has been nominated as the designated official for security issues for Switzerland. Ensuring the safety of staff and visitors, as well as the 30,000 delegates and participants who annually attend various conferences and meetings, at the premises of UNOG is an important responsibility that UNOG and its Director-General take very seriously. New mechanisms for the coordination of security issues have been established amongst United Nations entities and closer links with United Nations Headquarters in New York have facilitated the significant improvement of security to ensure the highest possible standards of security both when entering the Palais des Nations as well as on its grounds. It should be noted that against the backdrop of current security realities worldwide, it is a challenge at times for the United Nations to be as accessible as it would wish. UNOG continues to strive to keep the delicate balance between ensuring, on the one hand, a policy of openness while, on the other, maintaining the highest standards of security.

This year, UNOG has engaged in major works in the context of the project on security strengthening to enhance further the safety and security of the Palais des Nations' users and visitors. These include the reinforcement of the perimeter fence, the installation of shatter-resistant film on the windows of all buildings, and the renovation of the Control Operations Centre infrastructure. The new Prégny entrance with an internal access road leading up to the Bocage annex should be completed and inaugurated in 2006. It is also important to note that new increased security procedures have been introduced at UNOG premises for the entrance of visitors with vehicles.

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## Communicating efficiently and effectively with the right information tools

We live in an information age and the provision of high-quality information and communications technology (ICT) services to more than 30 Geneva-based organizations/departments is the cornerstone of the UNOG ICT strategy. Requests for services are steadily growing and the types of services provided change to meet the demands of the clients and the developments in technology. Upgrades to the network infrastructure will start by the end of the year and will provide a more secure and stable environment for all users. Wireless connectivity has been provided in many of the meeting rooms and will continue to be expanded with the provision of connectivity to the Internet for delegates and meeting participants. The use of videoconferencing facilities on United Nations premises has increased by more than 70 per cent and UNOG now facilitates videoconferences for other duty stations as well as Geneva. A new managed storage system has been implemented and is being made available to UNOG clients, thereby enhancing the availability and security of their data.

UNOG is constantly working on new features to supplement its Integrated Information Management System (IMIS) to improve further the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. A particularly noteworthy development has been the increased use of the system data for operational and analytical purposes, as witnessed by the growing requests from clients. A large number of functional improvements were introduced to the system through regular enhancements. The upgrading of equipment and the introduction of parallel processing for payroll operations provided notable performance improvements for the user community. In a related area, the Consolidated Treasury System (CTS), which was developed and is maintained at UNOG and is an essential complement to IMIS, was enhanced to align it with the latest international financial standards in the area of electronic funds transfer (EFT).

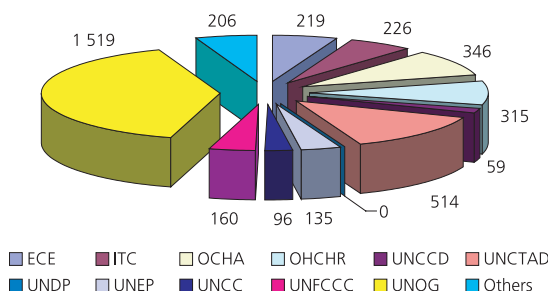
## Streamlining financial management

The payment of staff and the management of medical insurance are just two examples of financial administration that contribute to the welfare of United Nations personnel and make a direct impact on their working life. UNOG provides core financial support services covering allotment delivery, post management, accounts management, processing of various payments, staff

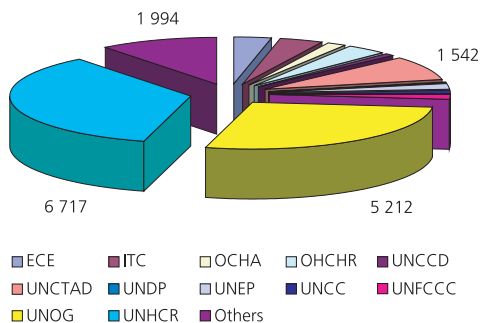
payroll, treasury functions and medical insurance services to more than 20 Geneva-based organizations/departments as well as entities located in Bonn and Turin. Servicing the system increases efficiency and allows for standardization.

IMIS functionality, user security and companion systems have continued to be routinely appraised and enhanced in 2005 in the interests of efficiency.

**Payroll-Clients serviced by UNOG**  
**(Total : 3 795 staff members)**  
**as at June 2005**



**Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accident**  
**Clients serviced by UNOG**  
**(Total: 19 018 members including 3 996 retirees)**  
**as at August 2005**



Finally, UNOG managed US\$ 230 million worth of regular budget funds in 2005.



# Implementing our pledges to meet the threats and challenges of our times

*T*he 2005 World Summit was a key event that is already shaping the work of the United Nations. The Summit Outcome contains solid commitments on the part of Member States, that when fully implemented, will better equip the United Nations to address the threats and challenges of our times. It pointed towards an opening, in an ongoing process, of a new chapter with fresh possibilities, while building on the experience gained over 60 years of work. It provided an opportunity for Heads of State and Government to reaffirm their faith in the United Nations and their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law as indispensable foundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. It made progress in the areas of fighting poverty, disease, strengthening the machinery for peace and pledging collective action for preventing genocide. It also made progress in the areas of terrorism, human rights, democracy, management of the Secretariat, peacebuilding, humanitarian response, health of populations, the environment and provided an opportunity for Member States to reaffirm their commitments to meeting the special needs of Africa.

The failure to reach agreement in the area of disarmament was a great disappointment of the 2005 World Summit. As the home of the Conference on Disarmament—the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body—UNOG will continue its efforts, as a vital focal point of international negotiations in the area of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The need to reach consensus and address these issues as a matter of priority, is as great as ever, and progress on disarmament and non-proliferation is crucial for global security.

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Yet we will only be able to assess properly what was accomplished at the 2005 World Summit in the years to come. The years ahead will be crucial since we now stand accountable for tackling the task of implementing pledges agreed at the Summit, for taking action on a range of global threats and challenges, including development, terrorism, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, environment, international health, humanitarian assistance and management reform of the Organization. As stated by the Secretary-General, the Summit Outcome imposes responsibility on each of us individually and on all of us collectively. We must promise to live up to what the Summit Outcome requires of us, and hold each other accountable for doing so through the establishment of “an accountability pact”. If everything that was promised is fulfilled, we will have stronger tools to reduce effectively poverty and disease, make our world a safer place, advance human rights and make the United Nations more effective. All Member States—developing and developed—have a role and a responsibility in achieving these objectives. We must address our responsibilities through collective efforts and build on the historic legacy of the founding fathers of our Organization.

In close cooperation with its partners, UNOG will continue to support and facilitate these collective efforts and strive to implement the pledges. The particular strengths of Geneva, especially in the protection and promotion of human rights, disarmament, provision of humanitarian assistance, advancement of economic and social development, labour, health and many more, will be critical in the work of UNOG and the United Nations family in Geneva.

As a centre for multilateral diplomacy, UNOG will continue to draw on the expertise and experience of the wider United Nations family in Geneva and, in doing so, will contribute to helping advance the international community's objectives.