

## Part II

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# THE UNITED NATIONS

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# What is the United Nations?

The United Nations was established on 24 October 1945 by 51 countries committed to preserving peace through international cooperation and collective security. Today, nearly every nation in the world belongs to the UN: membership now totals 189 countries. The United Nations was (similar to its predecessor, the League of Nations) founded in the aftermath of a World War, aiming to secure peace and harmony among the nations of the world through agreeing basic principles of international relations, human rights, and development.

When States become Members of the United Nations, they agree to accept the obligations of the UN Charter, an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations. According to the Charter, the UN has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security
- to develop friendly relations among nations
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights
- to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.

UN Member States are sovereign countries. The United Nations is not a world government, and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflict and formulate policies on matters affecting all of us. At the UN, all the Member States – large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems – have a voice and vote in this process (1 country – 1 vote). That makes the United Nations the only truly democratic global institution. (See also: <http://www.un.org/Overview/brief.html#works>)

## The UN Family of Organisations:

The United Nations consists of a whole family of organisations:

### 1. *The UN as such, made up of six main organs:*

- General Assembly (GA)
- Security Council (SC)
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

## Treaties

The term “treaty” can be used as a common generic term or as a particular term that indicates an instrument with certain characteristics.

- (a) **Treaty as a generic term:** The term “treaty” has regularly been used as a generic term embracing all instruments binding in international law concluded between international entities, regardless of their formal designation. Both the 1969 Vienna Convention and the 1986 Vienna Convention confirm this generic use of the term “treaty”. The 1969 Vienna Convention defines a treaty as “an international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation”. The 1986 Vienna Convention extends the definition of treaties to include international agreements involving international organisations as parties. In order to speak of a “treaty” in the generic sense, an instrument has to meet various criteria. First of all, it has to be a binding instrument, which means that the contracting parties intended to create legal rights and duties. Secondly, the instrument must be concluded by states or international organisations with treaty-making power. Thirdly, it has to be governed by international law. Finally the engagement has to be in writing. Even before the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the word “treaty” in its generic sense had been generally reserved for engagements concluded in written form.
- (b) **Treaty as a specific term:** There are no consistent rules when state practice employs the terms “treaty” as a title for an international instrument. Usually the term “treaty” is reserved for matters of some gravity that require more solemn agreements. Their signatures are usually sealed and they normally require ratification. Typical examples of international instruments designated as “treaties” are Peace Treaties, Border Treaties, Delimitation Treaties, Extradition Treaties and Treaties of Friendship, Commerce and Cooperation. The use of the term “treaty” for international instruments has considerably declined in recent decades in favour of other terms.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

## Charters

The term “charter” is used for particularly formal and solemn instruments, such as the constituent treaty of an international organisation. The term itself has an emotive content that goes back to the Magna Carta of 1215. Well-known recent examples are the Charter of the United Nations of 1945 and the Charter of the Organisation of American States of 1952.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

## Declarations

The term “declaration” is used for various international instruments. However, declarations are not always legally binding. The term is often deliberately chosen to indicate that the parties do not intend to create binding obligations but merely want to declare certain aspirations. An example is the 1992 Rio Declaration. Declarations can however also be treaties in the generic sense intended to be binding at international law. It is therefore necessary to establish in each individual case whether the parties intended to create binding obligations.

Ascertaining the intention of the parties can often be a difficult task. Some instruments entitled “declarations” were not originally intended to have binding force, but their provisions may have reflected customary international law or may have gained binding character as customary law at a later stage. Such was the case with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

All are based at UN Headquarters in New York, except for the Court, which is at The Hague, the Netherlands.

### 2. *The UN programmes and funds such as:*

In the area of the advancement of Women:

- United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

In the area of human rights:

- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

In the area of humanitarian relief:

- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

In the area of development:

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

In the area of environment:

- United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)

## What does the UN do to Promote the Equal Rights of Women?

The UN has been instrumental in improving the status of women by spearheading change and raising awareness of their rights throughout the world.

The equal rights of women were enshrined in the Preamble to the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, thereby legally establishing gender equality as a fundamental human right. The UN has set international standards on women’s rights and has created instruments to monitor how such rights are observed around the world. It adopted in 1979 the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – an international bill of rights for women, as well as a blueprint for action by countries to guarantee those rights. More than 160 countries have ratified the Convention, legally committing them to ensuring women’s equality. A special UN committee of independent experts monitors implementation of the Convention.

Established in 1946, the UN Commission on the Status of Women meets annually on matters concerning women’s rights, making recommendations on problems requiring immediate attention and initiating international legislation to promote women’s rights. The UN has helped mobilise women around the world. To focus attention on women’s rights, the UN declared 1975 to be ‘International Women’s Year’ and 1976–1985 the ‘UN Decade for Women.’ The UN has also provided a forum for women from around the world to join together to promote their rights. During the Year, it convened in Mexico City the first global conference ever held on women, followed by world conferences in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995). The UN General Assembly met in a Special Session to review progress since Nairobi and Beijing in New York in June 2000 (Beijing +5).

Two UN bodies are devoted exclusively to women’s issues. The UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) funds innovative development

activities to benefit women, especially in rural areas of the developing world. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) supports women's full participation in the economic, social and political spheres through training, research and information. <http://www.un.org/geninfo/ir/ch4/ch4.htm>

*Turn to Part IV for information on international agreements pertaining to women's/gender issues.*

## UN Finances

Individual Member States pay dues to the United Nations to allow the organisation to function. Dues are determined by the General Assembly's Committee on Contributions, through estimating their gross national product (GNP), and making a number of adjustments, including for countries with low per capita incomes. Each Member State is then assigned a percentage share of the budget, ranging from a minimum of 0.001 per cent to a maximum of 25 per cent.

### Top 10 per capita contributors to the UN regular budget, 1998

Liechtenstein	\$ 1.77
Luxembourg	1.76
Japan	1.52
Norway	1.48
Denmark	1.39
Sweden	1.33
Iceland	1.28
Germany	1.26
Austria	1.25
France	1.19

The UN is in financial crisis because Member States do not pay their share of costs for programmes they themselves have agreed to. Some countries fail to pay their dues on time due to budgetary technicalities or simple poverty. Others have withheld payments as a way to exert pressure on the UN or to make a political point. No State or private company could function under such conditions, particularly as Member States continue to ask more and more of the UN, even as dues are withheld.

### Women Heads of State or Government \*

Country	Presidents	Years in Office
Argentina	Maria Estela Martinez de Peron	1974–1976
Bolivia	Lydia Gueiler Tejada	1979–1980
Finland	Tarja Halonen	2000–
Germany (former Dem.Rep.of)	Sabine Bergmann-Pohl	1990
Guyana	Janet Jagan	1997–1999
Haiti	Ertha Pascal Trouillot	1990–1991
Iceland	Vigdís Finnbogadóttir	1980–1996
Ireland	Mary Robinson Mary McAleese	1990–1997 1997–
Latvia	Vaira Vike-Freiberga	1999–
Liberia	Ruth Perry	1996–1997
Malta	Agatha Barbara	1982–1987
Nicaragua	Violeta Barrios de Chamorro	1990–1996
Panama	Mireya Moscoso	1999–
Philippines	Corazon Aquino	1986–1992
Sri Lanka	Chandrika Kumaratunge	1994–
Switzerland	Ruth Dreifuss	1999

Country	Prime Ministers	Years in Office
Bangladesh	Begum Khaleda Zia Sheikh Hasina Wajed	1991–1996 1996–
Bulgaria	Reneta Indzhova	1994
Burundi	Sylvie Kinigi	1994–1993
Canada	Kim Campbell	1993
Central African Rep.	Elisabeth Domitien	1974–1976
Dominica	Mary Eugenia Charles	1980–1995
France	Edith Cresson	1991–1992
Guyana	Janet Jagan	1997
Haiti	Claudette Werleigh	1995–1996
India	Indira Gandhi	1966–1977 1980–1984
Israel	Golda Meir	1969–1974
Lithuania	Kazimiera Prunskiene	1990–1991
New Zealand	Jenny Shipley Helen Clark	1997–1999 1999–
Norway	Gro Harlem Brundtland	1981; 1986–1989; 1990–1996
Pakistan	Benazir Bhutto	1988–1990; 1993–1996
Poland	Hanna Suchocka	1992–1993
Portugal	Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo	1979–1980
Rwanda	Agathe Uwilingiyimana	1993–1994
Sri Lanka	Sirimavo Bandaranaike Chandrika Kumaratunge	1960–1965; 1970–1977; 1994–1994
Turkey	Tansu Ciller	1993–1996
UK	Margaret Thatcher	1979–1990
Yugoslavia	Milka Planinc	1982–1986

\* Excluding Queens and Governors-General

UNIFEM, 2000: *State of the World's Women 2000*. New York

## Conventions

The term “convention” again can have both a generic and a specific meaning.

- (a) **Convention as a generic term:** Art.38 (1) (a) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice refers to “international conventions, whether general or particular” as a source of law, apart from international customary rules and general principles of international law and – as a secondary source – judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists. This generic use of the term “convention” embraces all international agreements, in the same way as does the generic term “treaty”. Black letter law is also regularly referred to as “conventional law”, in order to distinguish it from the other sources of international law, such as customary law or the general principles of international law. The generic term “convention” thus is synonymous with the generic term “treaty”.
- (b) **Convention as a specific term:** Whereas in the last century the term “convention” was regularly employed for bilateral agreements, it now is generally used for formal multilateral treaties with a broad number of parties. Conventions are normally open for participation by the international community as a whole, or by a large number of states. Usually the instruments negotiated under the auspices of an international organisation are entitled conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969). The same holds true for instruments adopted by an organ of an international organisation (e.g. the 1951 ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, adopted by the International Labour Conference or the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly of the UN).

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

## Top 10 Members States in total outstanding contributions\*

(As of 31 December 1999) (in million US \$)

United States	1,170.3
Ukraine	212.0
Russian Federation	89.7
Belarus	50.7
Brazil	43.7
France	24.1
Yugoslavia	15.5
Germany	14.1
Argentina	13.2
Iraq	13.1

\* Figures include outstanding contributions to the UN regular budget, to UN peacekeeping operations and to the UN International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. As of 31 December 1999, total outstanding contributions for 1999 and previous years stood at \$1.7 billion, of which \$244 million was for the regular budget. Of the 185 Member States, 59 (or 32 per cent) had not paid their regular budget dues in full.

Under the UN Charter (Article 19), a Member State can be deprived of its vote in the General Assembly if its arrears equal or exceed the amount of the contributions due from it for the previous two years. Various Members have suffered this sanction over the years.

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/ir/ch6/ch6.htm>

## Institutions, Organisations, Commissions

The information on the UN bodies given on page 14 is based on material provided by the bodies themselves, e.g. on their websites. We have included information about their work in the area of women’s/gender issues, where available.

Some of these organisations have in recent years been criticised for their work and/or the way in which they pursue their goals. We are not aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of these criticisms. Rather, our descriptions aim to be neutral and provide readers with the broad idea of the organisations’ activities, contact details and access to further information.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY & ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are among the main organs of the UN.

### ● UN General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new Members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. A simple majority reaches decisions on other questions. These decisions may be adopted with or without a vote. While the decisions of the Assembly have no legally binding force for Governments, they carry the weight of world opinion on major international issues, as well as the moral authority of the world community.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** As the highest intergovernmental body in the UN, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW).

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/ga/55/>

**Contact:** GASpokesperson@un.org

### ● UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council was established by the **Charter** as the principal organ, under the authority of the General Assembly, to promote:

- (a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- (b) solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational cooperation;
- (c) universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** ECOSOC oversees system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and makes recommendations in this regard.

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc.htm>

## Agreements

The term “agreement” can have a generic and a specific meaning. It also has acquired a special meaning in the law of regional economic integration.

- (a) Agreement as a generic term: The 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties employs the term “international agreement” in its broadest sense. On the one hand, it defines treaties as “international agreements” with certain characteristics. On the other hand, it employs the term “international agreements” for instruments, which do not meet its definition of “treaty”. Its Art.3 refers also to “international agreements not in written form”. Although such oral agreements may be rare, they can have the same binding force as treaties, depending on the intention of the parties. An example of an oral agreement might be a promise made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of one State to his counterpart of another State. The term “international agreement” in its generic sense consequently embraces the widest range of international instruments.
- (b) Agreement as a particular term: “Agreements” are usually less formal and deal with a narrower range of subject matter than “treaties”. There is a general tendency to apply the term “agreement” to bilateral or restricted multilateral treaties. It is employed especially for instruments of a technical or administrative character, which are signed by the representatives of government departments, but are not subject to ratification. Typical agreements deal with matters of economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation. Agreements also frequently deal with financial matters, such as avoidance of double taxation, investment guarantees or financial assistance. The UN and other international organisations regularly conclude agreements with the host country to an international conference or to a session of a representative organ of the Organisation. Especially in international economic law, the term “agreement” is also used as a title for broad multilateral agreements (e.g. the commodity agreements). The use of the term “agreement” slowly developed in the first decades of this century. Nowadays by far the majority of international instruments are designated as agreements.
- (c) Agreements in regional integration schemes: Regional integration schemes are based on general framework treaties with constitutional character. International instruments that amend this framework at a later stage (e.g. accessions, revisions) are also designated as “treaties”. Instruments that are concluded within the framework of the constitutional treaty or by the organs of the regional organisation are usually referred to as “agreements”, in order to distinguish them from the constitutional treaty. For example, whereas the Treaty of Rome of 1957 serves as a quasi-constitution of the European Community, treaties concluded by the EC with other nations are usually designated as agreements. Also, the Treaty of Montevideo of 1980 established the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), but the subregional instruments entered into under its framework are called agreements.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>



## UNITED NATION PROGRAMMES, BODIES AND ORGANS

### ● UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee)

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), an expert body established in 1982, is composed of 23 experts on women's issues from around the world. It reviews the reports of States parties on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and evaluates the progress made.

The Committee's mandate is very specific: it watches over the progress made for women in those countries that are States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. A country becomes a State party by ratifying or acceding to the Convention and thereby accepting a legal obligation to counteract discrimination against women. The Committee monitors the implementation of national measures to fulfil this obligation.

At its meetings held twice annually, the Committee reviews national reports submitted by the States parties within one year of ratification or accession, and thereafter every four years. Government representatives present these reports, which cover national action taken to improve the situation of women, to the Committee. In discussions with these officials, the CEDAW experts can comment on the report and obtain additional information. This procedure of actual dialogue, developed by the Committee, has proven valuable because it allows for an exchange of views and a clearer analysis of anti-discrimination policies in the various countries.

The Committee also makes recommendations on any issue affecting women to which it believes the States Parties should devote more attention. For example, at the 1989 session, the Committee discussed the high incidence of violence against women, requesting information on this problem from all countries. In 1992, the Committee adopted General Recommendation 19, which requires national reports to include statistical data on the incidence of violence against women, information on the provision of services for victims, and legislative and other measures taken to protect women against violence in their everyday lives, such as harassment at the workplace, abuse in the family and sexual violence. As of May 1999, the Committee has made 24 General Recommendations.

The States parties elect the 23 members of CEDAW, acknowledged as experts "of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention". These elections have to meet the Convention's demands for equitable geographical distribution in membership and the requirement that CEDAW members represent "different forms of civilisation as well as principal legal systems". Their terms last four years, with only half of the Committee members replaced each time elections take place. The meeting of States parties is convened every other year by the Secretary-General at UN Headquarters in New York.

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committee.htm>

**Contact:** daw@un.org

### **The Optional Protocol to CEDAW: More Rights for Women**

**Since December 2000, there has been a right to petition with the UN in cases of gender-based discrimination.**

**Women now have the option to turn directly to the UN to complain about discrimination. The optional protocol to the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) entered into force 22nd Dec 2000.**

**The legally binding Convention protects the equal rights of women to education, profession, political positions, marriage etc. The CEDAW Committee at the UN in Geneva oversees the implementation of CEDAW. From now on, the CEDAW Committee will also be the body to look into individual complaints of women in those cases where they have gone through all stages of their respective national legal system. After hearing an individual case, the Committee will issue recommendations to the government of the respective country in order to rectify discrimination and ensure compensation. Governments are obliged to report to the CEDAW Committee on the implementation of the recommendations given.**

**Amnesty International has commented positively on the Optional Protocol as an important tool against the "daily discrimination" of women. The Protocol is an important step towards the implementation of the agreements reached at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995.**

**However, only citizens of countries who have not only signed (Dec 2000: 62 countries) but also ratified the Protocol (Dec 2000: 13 countries) can make use of the new rules.**

*(German newspaper: taz Nr. 6329, 22.12.2000 by Andreas Zumach; translated by Minu Hemmati)*

*Also see*

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/opdec21.htm>

## Protocols

The term “protocol” is used for agreements less formal than those entitled “treaty” or “convention”.

The term could be used to cover the following kinds of instruments:

- (a) A Protocol of Signature is an instrument subsidiary to a treaty, and drawn up by the same parties. Such a Protocol deals with ancillary matters such as the interpretation of particular clauses of the treaty, those formal clauses not inserted in the treaty, or the regulation of technical matters. Ratification of the treaty will normally ipso facto involve ratification of such a Protocol.
- (b) An Optional Protocol to a Treaty is an instrument that establishes additional rights and obligations to a treaty. It is usually adopted on the same day, but is of independent character and subject to independent ratification. Such protocols enable certain parties of the treaty to establish among themselves a framework of obligations that reach further than the general treaty and to which not all parties of the general treaty consent, creating a “two-tier system”. The Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 are well-known examples.
- (c) A Protocol based on a Framework Treaty is an instrument with specific substantive obligations that implements the general objectives of a previous framework or umbrella convention. Such protocols ensure a more simplified and accelerated treaty-making process and have been used particularly in the field of international environmental law. An example is the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer adopted on the basis of Arts.2 and 8 of the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.
- (d) A Protocol to amend is an instrument that contains provisions that amend one or various former treaties, such as the Protocol of 1946 amending the Agreements, Conventions and Protocols on Narcotic Drugs.
- (e) A Protocol as a supplementary treaty is an instrument that contains supplementary provisions to a previous treaty, e.g. the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- (f) A Proces-Verbal is an instrument that contains a record of certain understandings arrived at by the contracting parties.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

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## ● United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM is part of UNDP. It promotes women’s empowerment and gender equality working primarily at the country level. It works to ensure the participation of women in all levels of development planning and practice, and acts as a catalyst, supporting efforts that link the needs and concerns of women to all critical issues on the national, regional and global agendas.

**Website:** <http://www.unifem.undp.org/>

**Contact:** United Nations Development Fund for Women, 304 East 45th Street, 15th floor, New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212/906–6400 • Fax: 212/906–6705

Email: [unifem@undp.org](mailto:unifem@undp.org)

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## ● UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)

Acts as a focal point for coordination and mainstreaming of gender issues in the UN system. It has been the Secretariat of the four UN world conferences on women and is responsible for servicing the CSW and the CEDAW. It carries out gender analysis in the twelve critical areas of the Platform for Action and on emerging issues. It also has a mandate for gender mainstreaming in the UN system in support of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women.

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

**Contact:** DAW Coordination & Outreach Unit, [adama@un.org](mailto:adama@un.org)

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## ● International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

Stimulates and assists, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and making women’s contribution to development more visible. It assists the efforts of inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations in this regard.

INSTRAW’s Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS) is a “one stop” web-based electronic system for:

- Producing, managing and disseminating gender related knowledge and information

- Conducting collaborative research on emerging gender issues
- Facilitating consultations and dialogue between different stakeholders on global critical issues using a gender perspective
- Training and capacity building on women and gender issues

Globalisation and rapid technological developments are affecting many aspects of women's lives and those of their families and communities. Understanding the effects of these changes require gender sensitive knowledge and information for policymaking and action of different stakeholders. By providing a mechanism for collaborative research, dialogue and consultations, GAINS will link the different stakeholders in identifying research and training gaps, understanding emerging issues and identifying policy options and actions for change.

**Website:** <http://www.un-instraw-gains.org/>

**Contact:** instraw.hq.sd@codetel.net.do

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## ● United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF, an integral part of the **United Nations system**, has its own governing body, an **Executive Board** that sets policies, reviews programmes and approves budgets. With **headquarters** in New York, UNICEF carries out its work through eight **regional offices** and 125 **country offices**. UNICEF cooperates with national governments, non-governmental organisations and other United Nations agencies in 161 countries and territories. The 37 **National Committees for UNICEF**, mostly in the industrialised world, are non-governmental organisations that support UNICEF in advocacy for children and fund-raising.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** Aims to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities. Supports the equality and advancement of girls, in infancy, childhood and adolescence.

**Website:** <http://www.unicef.org> and <http://www.unicef.org/programme/gpp/index.htm>

**Contact:** Mary Duffy, Private Sector Division, UNICEF

Tel: 1 (212) 824-6952 • Fax: 1 (212) 824-6969

Email: [mduffy@unicef.org](mailto:mduffy@unicef.org)

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## ● UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Its constitution was adopted by the London Conference in November 1945, and entered into effect on the 4th of November 1946 when 20 states had deposited instruments of acceptance. It currently has 188 Member States (as of 19 October 1999). The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.

To fulfil its mandate, UNESCO performs five principal functions:

- Prospective Studies: what forms of education, science, culture and communication for tomorrow's world?
- The advancement, transfer and sharing of knowledge: relying primarily on research, training and teaching activities.
- Standard-setting action: the preparation and adoption of international instruments and statutory recommendations.
- Expertise: provided to Member States for their development policies and projects in the form of "technical co-operation".
- Exchange of specialised information.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** In promoting gender equality, the self-empowerment of women and their full citizenship, UNESCO is guided by the following principles:

1. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy-planning programming, implementation and evaluation activities.
2. Promoting the active and broad participation of women at all levels and fields of activity, with a particular attention to women's priorities, perspectives and contributions to the rethinking of both the goals and means of development.
3. Developing specific programmes, special projects and activities for the benefit of girls and women.

**Website:** <http://www.unesco.org> and

<http://www.unesco.org/women/index.htm>

**Contact:** UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 PARIS 07 SP, France

Phone national: +33 1 45 68 10 00

Fax national: +33 1 45 67 16 90

Email: [l.ruprecht@unesco.org](mailto:l.ruprecht@unesco.org)

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## ● United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP has offices in 134 countries and operates in 174 countries and territories. The focus of their activities include; poverty eradication; environmental regeneration; job creation and the advancement of women. UNDP provides direct assistance to these countries by promoting sound governance and market development. The overarching mission is to help countries build national capacity to achieve sustainable human development, with priority given to eliminating poverty and building equity.

UNDP works closely with NGOs, specialised UN agencies and research institutes in implementing its programmes. In addition to these regular programmes, UNDP facilitates a number of special-purpose funds on specific issues, which it addresses to further its objectives. These include issues relating to desertification, drought, volunteers and women. Jointly with the World Bank and UNEP (described later), UNDP is a managing partner of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This fund enables countries to translate global concerns into national action on issues including ozone depletion, global warming, loss of bio-diversity, and pollution of international waters.

In helping Southern developing nations to help themselves, UNDP promotes technology transfer from North to South, and draws on experience from around the world. It also promotes technology adaptation and exchange of experience between developing nations. The Programme is funded on a voluntary basis in undertaking its activities, and receives contributions for this work from nearly every country in the world.

**Website:** [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

**Contact:** UNDP, 1 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

*See also:* Sustainable Development Networking Programme, 304 East 45th Street, Room FF-978, New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel: 212-906-5862 • Fax: 212-906-6952

Email: [sdnp@sdnhq.undp.org](mailto:sdnp@sdnhq.undp.org)

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## ● United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The establishment of UNEP was one of the principal outcomes of the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. UNEP provides an integrative and interactive mechanism through which a large number of separate efforts by intergovernmental, non-governmental, national and regional bodies in the service of the environment are reinforced and

interrelated. UNEP advocated a concept of environmentally sound development, which later led to the adoption of Sustainable Development, paving the way for the Programme's integrated approach through all sectors. The primary challenge for UNEP is to 'further catalyse, promote and implement an environmental agenda that is integrated strategically with the goals of economic development and social well being – an agenda for sustainable development'. UNEP's strategy for achieving this focuses around the promotion of environmental science and information. This facilitates a process of raising awareness on emerging environmental problems within an organisation that has the structure and direction to address them.

UNEP's activities have included work on sustainable management and use of natural resources, including focussing on water security in Africa, regional seas programmes and the protection of the marine environment from human activities, global bio-diversity assessments, depletion of forests, wildlife conservation, climate and desertification; sustainable consumption & production, including; cleaner production, green technologies, ecotourism, human health & well-being, globalisation of the economy and the environment.

UNEP has also supported a number of conventions, treaties and protocols that have facilitated work on emerging issues. These include Ozone, Climate, Endangered Species (CITES), and Hazardous Wastes (Basel). In addition, UNEP has produced reports on the State of the Environment, Indicators of Sustainable Development and World Resources. Among its best-known publications are the Global Environmental Outlook reports (GEO). The next issue will be published in 2002. To support this UNEP co-ordinates network programmes including Environmental & Natural Resource Information Networking and Infoterra. These are designed to facilitate global networks for environmental information sharing.

**Website:** <http://www.unep.org/>

**Contact:** Chief, Information and Public Affairs, UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254-2-62-1234/3292 • Fax: +254-2-62-3927/3692

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## ● Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organisation was founded in October 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations. Today, FAO is the largest autonomous agency within the United Nations system with 180 Member Nations plus the EC (Member Organisation).

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** FAO has launched the **Gender and Food Security website**, available in English, Spanish and French: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/X2785e/X2785e00.htm>

The FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development (1996–2001) promotes gender-based equity in the access to, and control of, productive resources; enhances women's participation in decision and policy-making processes at all levels, and promotes actions to reduce rural women's workload and enhance their opportunities for remunerated employment and income. FAO's website also includes **focus sections** with information on women and food security, biodiversity, water resources, the green revolution and land tenure. Also available in **Spanish** and **French**.

**Website:** <http://www.fao.org>

**Contact:** FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39.0657051 • Fax: +39.0657053152

Telex: 625852/625853/610181 FAO I

Telegrams: FOODAGRI ROME

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## ● World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP is the frontline United Nations organisation fighting to eradicate world hunger.

The vision of WFP is a world in which every man, woman and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. Without food, there can be no sustainable peace, no democracy and no development.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** WFP's commitment to improve the condition of women is based on the fundamental premise that strengthening opportunities and options for women is the key to the solution of the problems of hunger and poverty. WFP commits itself to use its resources in interventions that seek to reduce such areas of inequalities; in particular in two areas: **1)** unequal access to and command over food resources by women, and **2)** unequal access to WFP also commits itself to address special nutritional problems faced by women and their children.

**Website:** <http://www.wfp.org> and <http://www.wfp.org/genderweb/>

**Contact:** WFP Headquarter, Via C.G.Viola 68, Parco de' Medici, 00148, Rome, Italy

Tel: +39-06-6513 2628 • Fax: +39-06-6513 2840

Email: [wfpinfo@wfp.org](mailto:wfpinfo@wfp.org)

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## ● The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IFAD—International Fund for Agricultural Development, working in 115 developing countries, is an UN agency whose primary purpose is to alleviate rural poverty. IFAD targets their programs to small farmers, the rural landless, poor rural women, indigenous people, nomadic pastoralists and artisanal fisherfolk. Their website is a gold mine of reports on rural poverty, popular initiatives and campaigns from around the world, calendars and conferences, and links to other websites. For anyone working in Latin America, IFAD has a Latin American website, FIDAMERICA, for your particular regional focus. Video-clips of conferences are also available. In Spanish, English, and French (some documents).

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** The IFAD has devised a strategy on household food security and gender. The Fund recognises the different but complementary roles of men and women in productive activities of household economies, which are at the heart of good project design and implementation. The Fund believes that by investing in the production potential of women, development projects empower women, give women the opportunity to provide for their families and contribute to the development of their communities and national economies.

**Website:** <http://www.ifad.org>

**Contact:** IFAD—International Fund for Agricultural Development, 107, Via del Serafico, Rome 00142, Italy

Tel: (3906)54591 • Fax: (3906)5043463

Email: [ifad@ifad.org](mailto:ifad@ifad.org)

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## ● World Health Organisation (WHO)

Founded in 1948, the World Health Organisation leads the world alliance for Health for All. A specialised agency of the United Nations with 191 Member States, WHO promotes technical cooperation for health among nations, carries out programmes to control and eradicate disease and strives to improve the quality of human life.

WHO has four main functions:

1. to give worldwide guidance in the field of health
2. to set global standards for health
3. to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes
4. to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.

The WHO definition of health: “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

- Women’s Health and Development Programme
- Safe Mother Initiative:  
<http://www.who.int/rht/msm/index.html>
- Nursing/Midwifery:  
<http://www.who.int/hdp/nur/index.htm>
- Reproductive Health:  
<http://www.who.int/aboutwho/en/promoting/reproductive.htm>
- Women and Tobacco:  
<http://tobacco.who.int/en/Health/women.html>
- Data Base on Violence Against Women:  
<http://www.who.int/aboutwho/en/rapid.htm>

**Website:** [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)  
**Contact:** [info@who.ch](mailto:info@who.ch)

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## ● United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to ensure the universal enjoyment of all human rights by giving practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community as expressed by the United Nations.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:**

<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/isswom.htm>  
and <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu6/2/fact.htm>

**Fact Sheets:** The Human Rights Fact Sheet series is published by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights at Geneva, Switzerland. It deals with selected questions of human rights that are under active consideration or are of particular interest.

Fact Sheet No.22, Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee. The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.

**Contact:** Inquiries and requests for High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights publications that are distributed free of charge may be addressed to: OHCHR–UNOG, CH–1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland or OHCHR’s New York Office, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA

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## ● United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** UNHCR has formal guidelines on preventing and responding to sexual violence. Based on recommendations by field workers experienced with rape and piracy attacks, they aim to provide other field workers with practical, non-specialist advice on the medical, psychological and legal ramifications of sexual violence. UNHCR has also developed gender training, known as People Oriented Planning (POP), to encourage staff to focus on the protection and assistance needs of refugee women.

UNHCR encourages countries to consider that when rape or other forms of sexual violence are committed for reasons of race or political opinion, for example – and particularly when the authorities concerned condone such actions – then they should be grounds for refugee status. Women who face inhumane treatment because of perceived transgressions of social mores should also be eligible for refugee status. UNHCR policy is that female genital mutilation may be considered a form of torture. Forcible abortion or sterilisation may be considered an element leading to refugee status as well. Currently, Canada and the United States are the only countries to have integrated these or similar policies into their refugee regulations.

**Website:** <http://www.unhcr.ch/issues/women/women.htm>

**Contact:** UNHCR, C.P. 2500, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Tel: +41–22–739–8111

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## ● United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat)

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat or “The City Agency”) was established in 1978, two years after the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, UNCHS (Habitat) is the lead agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlements.

The Centre was the secretariat for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996. This conference formulated the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration in which governments committed themselves to the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable urban development.

Habitat is the focal point for the implementation of these commitments.

Habitat's operational activities focus on promoting housing for all, improving urban governance, reducing urban poverty, improving the living environment and managing disaster mitigation and post-conflict rehabilitation. The Centre is supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at local, national and regional levels. During the biennium 2000–2001 Habitat launched two significant global campaigns, one for secure tenure and the other on urban governance. The aim of these campaigns is to reduce urban poverty through policies that emphasise equity, sustainability and social justice. Strategic and operational partnerships with government, local authorities, non-governmental and community based organisations, the private sector and UN agencies are crucial to the success of these campaigns.

Another major activity for the biennium is the preparation and servicing of Istanbul+5, the special session of the UN General Assembly planned in June 2001, which will review and appraise the worldwide implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

UNCHS (Habitat) Programmes and Activities include the following:

- Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, Shelter Branch
- Sustainable Cities Programme
- Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance, Urban Development Branch
- Risk and Disaster Management Unit, Urban Development Branch Global Division
- Managing Water for African Cities
- Istanbul + 5
- Localising Agenda 21: Action Planning for Sustainable Urban Development (LA21)
- Local Leadership and Management Training Programme
- Safer Cities Programme

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** The Women and Habitat Program

**Website:** <http://www.unchs.org/>

**Contact:** P. O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: (254–2) 623153 • Fax: (254–2) 624060  
Email: [habitat@unchs.org](mailto:habitat@unchs.org)

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## ● United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA is guided by, and promotes, the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994) and the outcomes of the 5-year review in 1999 (ICPD+5).

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** In particular, UNFPA affirms its commitment to reproductive rights, gender equality and male responsibility, and to the autonomy and empowerment of women everywhere. UNFPA's website includes a collection of "Best Practices and Lessons Learned" – country-projects that illustrate a range of strategies that can be used to promote gender equality.

- UNFPA Working to Empower Women
- ICPD +5 (30 June – 2 July 1999) explain
- The State of World Population Reports
- Publications

**Website:** <http://www.unfpa.org/> and <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/>

**Contact:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 220 East, 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA  
Email: [hq@unfpa.org](mailto:hq@unfpa.org)

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## ● United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

UNRISD is an autonomous agency that engages in multi-disciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development. It was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth." The Secretary-General's Bulletin that set up the Institute also called on UNRISD to carry out research and studies which are "urgent and important" to the work of the United Nations Secretariat as well as to regional and national institutes working in the fields of economic and social development. The comparative advantage of international organisations lies in the generation of ideas and norms for governance of the international system. UNRISD is able to bring knowledge from the global research community to the policy-making process.

A striking feature of development research and policymaking is the gap between what is known in

universities and research centres about basic problems and processes of social change, on one hand, and the capacity of policymakers to gain access to this information, on the other. UNRISD serves as a conduit of knowledge from sites where it is generated to sites where it may be used. The Institute produces results that are academically sound and address the concerns of policy makers, including governmental and non-governmental actors.

In addition to providing policy input via its publications and conferences, the expertise of the Institute's staff members is solicited by a range of organisations in the form of consultancy and advisory work. This enables UNRISD to contribute to the programme development and activities of other institutions and groups.

**Website:** <http://www.unrisd.org>

**Contact:** UNRISD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel: +41-22/917 3020 • Fax: +41-22/917 0650

Email: [info@unrisd.org](mailto:info@unrisd.org)

## **SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND OTHER AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

### ● **World Bank and International Monetary Fund**

Including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, July 1944, founded the Bretton Woods Institutions. The original purpose of the group was to establish a body to deal with monetary and financial problems for political stability and peace, specifically with war-affected Western European nations in mind.

The World Bank has now modified its objectives to focus on the reduction of poverty. This is achieved through private-led development funding. The intention being to create new partnerships with groups within civil society, in addition to traditional government partners. The WB Group is divided into a number of bodies covering International Development, International Finance and Multilateral Investment Guarantee.

This structure provides funding and loans for countries at varying levels of development, and between public and private sources. The overseeing authority is the Board of Governors, consisting of one governor from each member country, which meets annually. More recently the bank has been

working to integrate growing environmental concerns more fully into its activities. This is particularly so in regards to urban growth and declining rural sectors. The Bank holds annual Environmentally Sustainable Development Conferences to define this emerging issue.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** The World Bank's GenderNet website describes how the Bank promotes gender equality, summarises knowledge and experience, provides gender country profiles, and contains a section to facilitate discussion on gender. The Bank seeks to improve gender equality through its programs and projects, and to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of its operations by considering gender aspects.

**Website:** <http://www.worldbank.org> and <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/>

**Contact:** The World Bank Group Business Partnership Center, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433

Tel: (202) 522-4272 (522-4BPC)

Fax: (202) 522-1727

Email: [gnetwork@worldbank.org](mailto:gnetwork@worldbank.org)

### ● **The Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

The Global Environment Facility was established to forge international cooperation and finance actions to address four critical threats to the global environment: biodiversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters, and ozone depletion. Related work to stem the pervasive problem of land degradation is also eligible for GEF funding.

Launched in 1991 as an experimental facility, GEF was restructured after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to serve the environmental interests of people in all parts of the world. The facility that emerged after restructuring was more strategic, effective, transparent, and participatory. In 1994, 34 nations pledged \$2 billion in support of GEF's mission; in 1998, 36 nations pledged \$2.75 billion to protect the global environment and promote sustainable development.

The GEF can succeed in its global environmental mission only as part of a worldwide movement toward sustainable development. GEF brings together 166 member governments, leading development institutions, the scientific community, and a wide spectrum of private sector and non-governmental organisations on behalf of a common global environmental agenda

**Website:** <http://www.gefweb.org/>

**Contact:** GEF Secretariat, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA

Tel: (202) 473-0508 • Fax: (202) 522-3240/3245

Email: [gef@gefweb.org](mailto:gef@gefweb.org)

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## ● International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The International Labour Organisation was created in 1919, at the end of the First World War, at the time of the Peace Conference that convened first in Paris, then at Versailles.

**FOCUS ON GENDER:** The ILO's focus on women and gender equality in the world of work has been an integral part of its mandate since its creation in 1919. The Office of the Special Adviser on Women Workers' Questions is responsible for the promotion and coordination of ILO policies, strategies, programmes and activities concerning equality for women in employment.

**Websites:** <http://www.ilo.org> and <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/gender/>

**Contact:** International Labour Office, 4, route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland  
Tel: +41.22.799.6111 • Fax: +41.22.798.8685  
Email: [ilo@ilo.org](mailto:ilo@ilo.org)

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## ● World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The WTO is not part of the United Nation system although it has cooperating arrangements and practices with the Organisation. The WTO, with a central location in Geneva, is the only international body that deals with the rules of trade between nations worldwide. The nexus of the WTO is the agreements it has established which represent the foundations for policies on international trade and commerce. The agreements are the foundation of the multi-lateral trading system and are concerned with helping trade flow freely, the achievement of trade liberalisation through negotiation, and the settling of disputes concerned with trade. The main aims of the WTO include: working as a forum for trade negotiations; administrating the agreements; monitoring national trade policy; co-operating with other international organisations; and providing technical assistance and training for developing countries.

The creation of the WTO in 1995 represented the biggest international trade reform since the establishment of the Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Before '95, GATT set the tone for world trade with a limited field of action. By the 1980s GATT was becoming outdated; trade had become more complex and the loopholes in it were being exploited. When the 1990s rolled around globalisation was increasing dramatically along with international inventory expansion. In the Uruguay Roundtable of 1995 these issues were confronted and the WTO was formed to replace GATT with increasing effectiveness.

Current projects of the WTO are focused around the research and analysis of various topics dealing with trade and more recently globalisation including, but not limited to: the environment, trade liberalisation and sustainable development, banking, and education. The rapidly developing globalised economy and the impact of the Internet have been a main concern of the WTO in more recent reports.

**Website:** <http://www.wto.org>

**Contact:** World Trade Organisation, Rue de Lausanne 154, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 739 51 11 • Fax: (41-22) 731 42 06  
Email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org)

## COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES AND AD HOC AND RELATED BODIES

The implementation of the outcomes of each of the cycle of UN Summits and Conferences is being monitored by a UN Commission:

- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) (Rio Earth Summit)
- Commission on the Advancement of Women (CSW) (Women's Conferences)
- Commission on Social Development (CSocD) (Copenhagen Social Summit)
- Commission on Population and Development (CPD) (Cairo Population Conference)
- Commission on Human Rights (CHR) (Vienna Human Rights Summit)
- Commission on Human Settlements (CHS) (Istanbul City Conference)

Commissions have a limited number of members. Member States are elected on a regional quota basis; terms are usually 3 or 4 years long. A country can be a member to a particular Commission only for a limited number of consecutive terms. However, Commission meetings are open to all Member States, non-Member States cannot vote but actively participate in the deliberations.

Below are brief descriptions of these Commissions. We begin with the example of the CSD to illustrate the way the Commissions work.

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## ● The Commission of Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED; to monitor and report on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the

local, national, regional and international levels. The CSD is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with 53 members. It was agreed that a five-year review of Earth Summit progress would be made in 1997 by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in special session.

**Earth Summit + 5:** The Special Session of the General Assembly held in June 1997 adopted a comprehensive document entitled Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 prepared by the Commission on Sustainable Development. It also adopted the programme of work of the Commission for 1998–2002.

The Commission on Sustainable Development consistently generates a high level of public interest. Over 50 ministers attend the CSD each year and more than one thousand non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are accredited to participate in the Commission's work. The Commission ensures the high visibility of sustainable development issues within the UN system and helps to improve the UN's coordination of environment and development activities. The CSD also encourages governments and international organisations to host workshops and conferences on different environmental and cross-sectoral issues. The results of these expert-level meetings enhance the work of CSD and help the Commission to work better with national governments and various non-governmental partners in promoting sustainable development worldwide.

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is mandated:

- To monitor progress on the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals by governments, NGOs, and other UN bodies;
- To monitor progress towards the target of 0.7% GNP from developed countries for Overseas Development Aid;
- To review the adequacy of financing and the transfer of technologies as outlined in Agenda 21;
- To receive and analyse relevant information from competent NGOs in the context of Agenda 21 implementation;
- To enhance dialogue with NGOs, the independent sector, and other entities outside the UN system, within the UN framework;
- To provide recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- To coordinate the activities of other UN bodies as they relate to issues of sustainable development;
- To analyse progress at national, regional and international levels.

### Isn't the CSD just more talking, instead of action?

At first sight, yes the CSD does do a lot of talking. It is primarily a forum for opening up discussion between governments and other stakeholders on the multitude of issues involved in sustainable development. But the outcomes of the CSD prove that this talking leads to very significant actions. The CSD offers a 'soft' forum to introduce ideas into the intergovernmental arena. These ideas can then be developed into hard law. As can be seen from the above list, the process is not instant, but there is potential for significant changes within a few years.

*(See Chapter 12. for more information on how NGOs work around the CSD.)*

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm>

**Contact:** Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–2220, New York, New York 10017, USA  
Tel: + 1 212–963–3170 • Fax: + 1–212–963–4260  
Email: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org)

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## ● UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Prepares recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on promoting women's rights and monitors, within the UN system, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established as a functional commission of ECOSOC by Council resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. The object of the Commission is to promote implementation of the principle that men and women shall have equal rights. ECOSOC resolution 1987/22 expanded the Commission's mandate in 1987. Following the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the General Assembly mandated the Commission to integrate into its work programme a follow-up process to the Conference, in which the Commission should play a catalytic role, regularly reviewing the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action.

The Commission, which began with 15 members, now consists of 45 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years. Members, who are appointed by Governments, are elected on the following basis: thirteen from African states; eleven from Asian states; four from Eastern European states; nine from Latin American and

Caribbean states; and eight from Western European and Other states. The Commission meets normally on an annual basis for a period of eight working days.

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

**Contact:** United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, 2 UN Plaza, DC2-12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: +1-212-963-3463

Email: [daw@un.org](mailto:daw@un.org)

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## ● The Commission on Social Development (CSocD)

The Social Commission was established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946. As a result of a comprehensive reappraisal of the role of the Commission it was renamed in 1966 and became the Commission for Social Development, in order to clarify its role as a preparatory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy. The Commission meets annually.

The Commission consists of 46 members elected by ECOSOC for terms of office of four years on the following basis: 12 from African states; 10 from Asian states; 5 from Eastern European states; 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states; and 10 from Western European and Other states.

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/>

**Contact:** Secretariat of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-1370, New York, New York 10017 USA

Tel: + 1 212/963 6763 • Fax: + 1 212/963 3062

Email: [geneva2000@un.org](mailto:geneva2000@un.org)

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## ● The Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

The Commission on Population was modified as a result of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), becoming the Commission on Population and Development. The Commission monitors, reviews and assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference. The Programme is designed to guide national and international policies on population and development over the next 20 years. In addition, the General Assembly requested other specialised agencies to implement and adjust their work programmes in line with the Programme of Action of the Conference.

The Commission co-ordinates its activities through a system of topic orientated multi-year work

programmes. These are assessed via a 5 yearly review of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In order to aid the prioritisation of specific issues, at its 28th session in 1995, the Commission proposed the submission of annual reports on selected topic of the programme of action. The Commission's multi-year work programme 1996-1999 was laid out and endorsed by the Commission at the 28th Session. The 5-year review for this work programme took place in June 1999 (ICPD+5).

**Website:**

<http://www.undp.org/popin/unpopcom.htm>

**Contact:** Director, United Nations Population Division. Rm. 1950, 2 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: (212) 963-2147

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## ● The Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

In 1947, when the Commission on Human Rights met for the first time, its sole function was to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That task was accomplished within a year and the Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948 (since then 10 December is celebrated annually as "human rights day").

For the first 20 years (1947-1966), the Commission concentrated its efforts on standard-setting. Using the Universal Declaration as the basis, the Commission set about drafting an impressive body of international human rights law, culminating in the adoption by the General Assembly in 1966 of the two human rights covenants, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Together, the Universal Declaration and the two Covenants are commonly referred to as the International Bill of Human Rights.

The standard-setting character of the first 20 years is illustrated by a statement the Commission adopted in 1947 (and endorsed that year by the Economic and Social Council) to the effect that it "recognised that it had no competence to deal with any complaint about violations of human rights". In 1967, the Commission was specifically authorised (by the Economic and Social Council, with the encouragement of the General Assembly) to start to deal with violations of human rights. Since then, the Commission has set up an elaborate machinery and procedures, country-oriented or thematic (operating through Special Rapporteurs and working groups), to monitor compliance by States with international human rights law and to investigate alleged violations of human rights, *inter alia* by dispatching fact-finding missions to countries in all parts of the world, rich

and poor, developing and developed countries alike. (It may be of interest, for example, that in 1994 the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance visited China and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism visited the United States of America). During the 1970s and 1980s the implementation and fact-finding machinery and procedures became the focus of the Commission's attention.

In the 1990s, the Commission has increasingly turned its attention to the need of States to be provided with advisory services and technical assistance to overcome obstacles to securing the enjoyment of human rights by all. At the same time more emphasis has been put on the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living. Increased attention is also being given to the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups in society, including minorities and indigenous people and to the protection of the rights of the child and of women, including the eradication of violence against women and the attainment of equal rights for women.

This new emphasis finds eloquent expression in the final document of the Conference held in Vienna in 1993, which highlights democracy and development as an integral part of human rights.

**Website:**

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/2/chr.htm>

**Contact:** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 8–14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: (41–22) 917–9000 • Fax: (41–22) 917–9016  
Email: webadmin.hchr@unog.ch

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## ● The Commission on Human Settlements (CHS)

The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977. The Commission undertakes the mandate of the UN Centre for Human Settlements, promoting the Habitat Agenda. This plan of action was defined at the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in 1996. It constitutes the Commission's current medium-term plan (of action). The basic principles established at the conference revolve around adequate shelter for all, and sustainable human settlements developed in the urbanising world.

The present medium-term runs from 1998–2001, and is structured into four sub-programmes focussing on specific issues. This provides the framework for the Centre's biennial work programme. Sub-programmes for the current plan are as follows:

**Subprogramme 1:** Shelter and Social Services

**Subprogramme 2:** Urban Management

**Subprogramme 3:** Environment & Infrastructure

**Subprogramme 4:** Assessment, Monitoring and Information

The Commission consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States.

**Website:** <http://www.unchs.org>

**Contact:** UNCHS (Habitat), PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 2 621234, 623210, 623988, 623153

Fax: +254 2 624266, 624267, 624624, 623080, 624060

Email: habitat@unchs.org

## UN REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

The United Nations are operating within 5 regions of the world:

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### ● ECA – Economic Commission for Africa

Established in 1958, The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa seeks to assist African countries to develop self-reliant socio-economic systems.

ECA has evolved a strategic response to the continent's development challenges and opportunities, which entails: designing and implementing economic and social policies to alleviate poverty; expanding inter-regional trade and integrating Africa into the world economy; enhancing the capacity of the State for **development** and promoting a prominent role for the private sector; strengthening **civil society** organisations for development and peace; promoting gender equity; and promoting policies that expedite the use of information technology in Africa's development.

The Commission operates as a networker of development expertise in Africa, a clearing-house for best practices and a policy integrator that pools together analyses from a number of fields to provide the best possible advisory services to Member States.

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/depts/eca>

**Contact:** ECA, Communication Team, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +25 1 1 51 72 00 • Fax: +25 1 1 51 44 16

Email: ecainfo@un.org

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## ● ESCAP – Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), represents some 60 per cent of the world's population and, with 51 **Members** and 9 **Associate Members**, it is the largest of the five UN Regional Commissions.

Established in March 1947 at Shanghai, China, as ESCAFE – The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to assist in post-war economic reconstruction, the Commission moved its Headquarters to Bangkok in January 1949. The name was changed in 1974 to reflect both the economic and social aspects of development and the geographic location of its Members.

ESCAP gives **technical support** to Member Governments for socio-economic development through direct advisory services, information and training, sharing regional experiences and inter-country networks. Through Five **Committees** and two **Special Bodies** ESCAP carries out seven **subprogrammes**, and the Commission has spawned two of the region's vital institutions – the Asian Development Bank and the Mekong River Commission.

ESCAP works closely with many UN specialised agencies that have their regional Headquarters at Bangkok. They include the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

**Website:** <http://www.unescap.org>

**Contact:** ESCAP/UNIS, UN Information Services, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand 10200  
Tel: +66 2 288 1861/9 • Fax: +66 2 288 1052  
Email: unisbkk.unescap@un.org

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## ● ECE – Economic Commission for Europe

Created in 1947, the activities of **The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** cover 55 States from the North Pole to the Red Sea, from Vancouver to Vladivostok – through Tashkent, Warsaw, Rome and London. The United States of America and Canada are Members. Through its work on transport, environment, energy, industry and trade, the ECE has affected many aspects of everyday life. See: *The UN in Your Daily Life* on reducing and preventing air and water pollution, improving car safety, developing and harmonising regional transport networks, facilitating border crossings, and simplifying administrative procedures in international trade.

For the past half century, discreetly and effectively, the ECE has negotiated conventions, norms and standards on economic and social development in the region.

**Website:** <http://www.unece.org>

**Contact:** ECE Information Unit, Palais des Nations, Office 370, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: (41 0 22) 917 44 44 • Fax: (41 0 22) 917 00 36  
Email: info.ece@unece.org

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## ● ECLAC – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

CEPAL: La Comision Economica para America Latina y el Caribe/ECLA: The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by **ECOSOC** in 1948 and was redesignated as the **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** in 1984. It was set up to coordinate policies promoting economic development in Latin America and to foster regional and international trade.

In 1996 Member States updated the CEPAL/ECLAC **mandate** requiring it to act as a centre of excellence aiding Governments in the integrated analysis of the development process.

ECLAC has a number of **Regional Offices** including at Brasilia, **Buenos Aires, México D.F., Trinidad** and a North American Office at **Washington, D.C.**

**Website:** <http://www.eclac.cl/index1.html>

**Contact:** CEPAL, Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile  
Tel: +56 2 210 2000 • Fax: +56 2 208 0252  
Email: info@eclac.org

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## ● ESCWA – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The most recent regional commission to be established, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was set up in 1973 as a successor to the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut.

**ESCWA** concentrates its efforts on improving the economic and social situation of its Member States. It encourages regional cooperation so that countries jointly address issues of common concern such as water scarcity, unemployment and poverty. In such areas as trade, environment, energy and water; ESCWA has improved the quality of life of people living in the region and assisted its Member States to further integrate into the global economy. As a neutral body with universal values the Commission plays a fundamental role in meeting emerging geo-economic challenges in a post-peace era.

**Website:** <http://www.escwa.org.lb>  
**Contact:** ESCWA/UNIS, P.O. Box 11-8575,  
Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: +96 1 1 981 301 • Fax: +96 1 1 981 510  
Email: [nescwa@escwa.org.lb](mailto:nescwa@escwa.org.lb)

## Other Intergovernmental Fora

There are several other Intergovernmental Fora. Some of them are particularly relevant in the areas of sustainable development, women's rights and gender issues.

### ● Group of 77 and China

The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries signatories of the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. Beginning with the first Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Algiers in 1967, which adopted the Charter of Algiers, a permanent institutional structure gradually developed which led to the creation of Chapters of the Group of 77 in Rome (FAO), Vienna (UNIDO), Paris (UNESCO), Nairobi (UNEP) and the Group of 24 in Washington, D.C. (IMF and World Bank). Although the membership of the G-77 has increased to 133 countries, the original name was retained because of its historic significance.

As the largest Third World coalition in the United Nations, the Group of 77 provides the means for the developing world to articulate and promote its collective economic interests and enhance its joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the United Nations system, and promote economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC).

The organisation and modalities of work of the G-77 in the various Chapters have certain minimal features in common such as a similarity in membership, decision-making and certain operating methods. A chairman who acts as its spokesman coordinates the Group's work in each Chapter. The chairmanship rotates on a regional basis (between Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean) and is held for one year in all the Chapters. Currently the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 in New York for the year 2001.

The Ministerial Meeting is the supreme decision-making body of the Group of 77. They are convened annually at the beginning of the regular sessions of

the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York and periodically in preparation for UNCTAD sessions and the General Conferences of UNIDO and UNESCO. Special Ministerial Meetings are also called as needed such as on the occasion of the Group's 25th anniversary (Caracas, June 1989) and 30th anniversary (New York, June 1994). In April 2000 the Group of 77 met for the first time at the level of heads of state or government which therefore elevated decision-making within the Group of 77 to the highest political level (South Summit, Havana, Cuba).

The activities of the Group of 77 are financed through contributions by Member States and other developing countries.

### Activities

- Produces joint declarations, action programmes and agreements on specific topics such as Algiers Charter 1967; Lima Declaration 1971; Manila Declaration 1976; Arusha Programme for Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations 1979; Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC 1981; Cairo Declaration on ECDC 1986; Havana Declaration 1987; Agreement on a Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) 1988; Caracas Declaration 1989; Tehran Declaration 1991; 30th Anniversary Ministerial Declaration 1994; Ministerial Statement on "An Agenda for Development" 1994; the San Jose Declaration and Plan of Action on South-South Trade, Investment and Finance 1997; and the Bali Declaration and Plan of Action on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries (1998).
- Makes statements, sponsors and negotiates resolutions and decisions at global conferences and other meetings held under the aegis of the United Nations dealing with international economic cooperation and development.
- Sponsors projects in developing countries through funding from the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund.

**Website:** <http://www.g77.org/>

**Contact:** Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77, United Nations Headquarters, Room S-3959, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.  
Tel: (212) 963-0192 | (212) 963-3816  
Fax: (212) 963-3515 | (212) 963-1753  
Email: [g77off@unmail.org](mailto:g77off@unmail.org)

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## ● Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

OECD, with a central location in Paris, acts as an inter-governmental forum on economic development. Within this forum Member States (29 in all) seek, discuss, and compare solutions to the many issues surrounding economic development including: the environment, sustainable development, tourism, developing nations, etc. The forum both advises its members on certain policies to adopt and helps to set international agreements and legal codes surrounding economic development. The main aims of the OECD include: the promotion and achievement of sustainable economic growth within its members' states while also aiding world economic development; promotion of economic expansion in Member and Non-member states; and contributing to the expansion of world trade on a multi-lateral, non-discriminatory basis.

The forum was founded after W.W.II as the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC). It was established as a result of the US Marshall Plan that was instituted in order to help reconstruct the economies in Western Europe after the war. In 1961, the US and Canada joined and the forum became the OECD. Since the addition of these North American countries a series of members from Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, and Central America have joined; thus further internationalising the 'new' economies of Western Europe.

Project focuses of the OECD consist of, but are not limited to: tourism, education, sustainable development, strategies for developing nations, etc. Current projects of the OECD on the subject of sustainable development are concentrating on research in the specific areas of climate change, technological development, environmental impact of subsidies, etc. This is all being done in preparation for a Ministerial Council meeting in 2001.

**Website:** <http://www.oecd.org>

**Contact:** OECD, 2, rue André Pascal, F-75775 Paris Cedex 16, France

Tel: +33 1.45.24.82.00

Email: go to <http://www.oecd.org/contact/> for list of email addresses

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## ● Group of Eight (G8)

The origins of the present Group of Eight (G8) leading industrialised democracies lie in the Economic Summit convened by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France at Rambouillet in November

1975. President Giscard and Chancellor Schmidt of Germany, themselves both former Finance Ministers, were keen to establish an informal forum to discuss world economic issues, building on the 'Library Group' of Finance Ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Japan and the US (named after their meetings in the White House library), which operated during the early 1970s. This original 'Group of Five' was joined by Italy, Canada and the President of the European Commission in 1976-77. This configuration became known as the Group of Seven (G7). Meetings followed a limited agenda of economic issues, and were intended as informal consultation sessions.

During the 1980s these annual meetings, which each of the seven states hosted in turn, became more formalised. Communiqués, an agreed statement issued by all leaders at the conclusion of the Summit, became a standard feature, along with full media coverage. The agenda became broader with the advent of a new generation of leaders (President Reagan, President Mitterand, Chancellor Kohl, Prime Minister Thatcher), who were keen to discuss political issues alongside economics.

The G8 is an informal organisation, with no rules or permanent Secretariat staff. The Presidency rotates annually among the G7 members, with each in turn taking responsibility for organising the annual Summit. In addition to these, a variety of working and expert groups meet throughout the year to prepare specialised subjects. The G8 has no formal secretariat of its own for implementing action. Heads agree a communiqué issued at the conclusion of Summits, which commits each country to co-ordinate individual action towards common goals. G7/8 agreement can often act as a catalyst for action in other international fora.

**Website** of the Birmingham G8 Summit:

<http://birmingham.g8summit.gov.uk/brief0398/what.is.g8.shtml>

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## ● European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) is the result of a process of cooperation and integration, which began in 1951 between six countries (Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). After nearly fifty years, with four waves of accessions (1973: Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom; 1981: Greece; 1986: Spain and Portugal; 1995: Austria, Finland and Sweden), the EU today has fifteen Member States and is preparing for its fifth enlargement, this time towards Eastern and Southern Europe.

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The European Union's mission is to organise relations between the Member States and between their peoples in a coherent manner and on the basis of solidarity. The main objectives are:

- to promote economic and social progress (the single market was established in 1993; the single currency was launched in 1999);
- to assert the identity of the European Union on the international scene (through European humanitarian aid to non-EU countries, common foreign and security policy, action in international crises; common positions within international organisations);
- to introduce European citizenship (which does not replace national citizenship but complements it and confers a number of civil and political rights on European citizens);
- to develop an area of freedom, security and justice (linked to the operation of the internal market and more particularly the freedom of movement of persons);
- to maintain and build on established EU law (all the legislation adopted by the European institutions, together with the founding treaties).

There are five institutions involved in running the European Union:

- the European Parliament (elected by the peoples of the Member States),
- the Council (representing the governments of the Member States),
- the Commission (the executive and the body having the right to initiate legislation),
- the Court of Justice (ensuring compliance with the law),
- the Court of Auditors (responsible for auditing the accounts).

These institutions are supported by other bodies: the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (advisory bodies which help to ensure that the positions of the EU's various economic and social categories and regions respectively are taken into account), the European Ombudsman (dealing with complaints from citizens concerning maladministration at European level), the European Investment Bank (EU financial institution) and the European Central Bank (responsible for monetary policy in the euro-area).

General Report on EU activities:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/abc-en.htm>

EU organs on women's issues:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/equopp/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/equopp/index_en.htm)

EU organs on environment issues:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/env/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/env/index_en.htm)

EU organs on development issues:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/dev/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/dev/index_en.htm)

EU organs on employment issues:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/employment\\_social/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/employment_social/index_en.htm)

## The United Nations World Conferences

Global Summits and other meetings are organised by the UN on different thematic areas such as the advancement of women, environmental matters, sustainable development, human settlements, social development (poverty eradication, employment, etc.), population, and food security. It takes some time before agreements are reached and adopted by the United Nations.

Since 1990, the international community has convened 12 major conferences that have committed Governments to address urgently some of the most pressing problems facing the world today. Taken together, these high profile meetings have achieved a global consensus on the priorities for a new development agenda for the 1990s and beyond.

Through the conference process the entire international community has come together to agree on shared values, shared goals and strategies to achieve them. It flows from consciousness-raising; to agenda setting; to agreement on action by Member States; to follow-up on conference commitments; and to assistance for the countries that need help in realising their commitments.

Taken individually, each conference marked the culmination of many months of consultations among Member States, UN experts and non-governmental representatives, who reviewed vast amounts of information and shared a broad spectrum of experiences in child welfare, environmental protection, human rights, the advancement of women, productive employment, reproductive health and urban development, and the links of these to peace, development and human security. Each conference forged agreements on specific issues in a new spirit of global cooperation and purpose.

All addressed problems of a global magnitude, which Member States recognised, had grown beyond

their individual capacities to solve and which needed a concerted international effort. All of them reflect the work of Member States and a growing number of other actors in the field of international development, particularly non-governmental organisations (NGOs). All of them actively sought out media attention, capturing the imaginations of millions of people around the world and greatly enhancing awareness and understanding of the issues in the public at large.

Global conferences have made a long-term impact by:

- mobilising national and local governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to take action on a major global problem;
- establishing international standards and guidelines for national policy;
- serving as a forum where new proposals can be debated and consensus sought;
- setting in motion a process, whereby governments make commitments and report back regularly to the United Nations.

The United Nations has also instituted a 5-year review cycle for all the Global Summits; progress is monitored

by the UN Commissions. The Commissions meet every year at UN Headquarters in New York, Nairobi, or Geneva. Commissions have an average of 53 members of the 190 UN Member States. The Commission meetings normally take two weeks and certain issues are addressed, according to a work programme the Commission has agreed. For example, in 1999 the Commission on the Status of Women has looked in 'Woman Health and Aid' and Commission on Sustainable Development has discussed sustainable agriculture, forests, land management, finance & trade, investment and economic growth at its meeting in 2000. Resolutions and decisions from the Commissions then go through discussions at a higher level, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and then to the UN highest level, the General Assembly. There is a yearly cycle with the Commissions meeting in spring, ECOSOC meeting in early summer and the General Assembly meeting in autumn every year.

However, apart from all the mechanisms and institutions, which have been established at governmental and inter-governmental levels, it takes the universal participation and strong commitment by all stakeholders to make the Global Plans of Action a reality.

## Summit Processes

- each 5 years a different review in UNGASS (so far)
- each year different topics

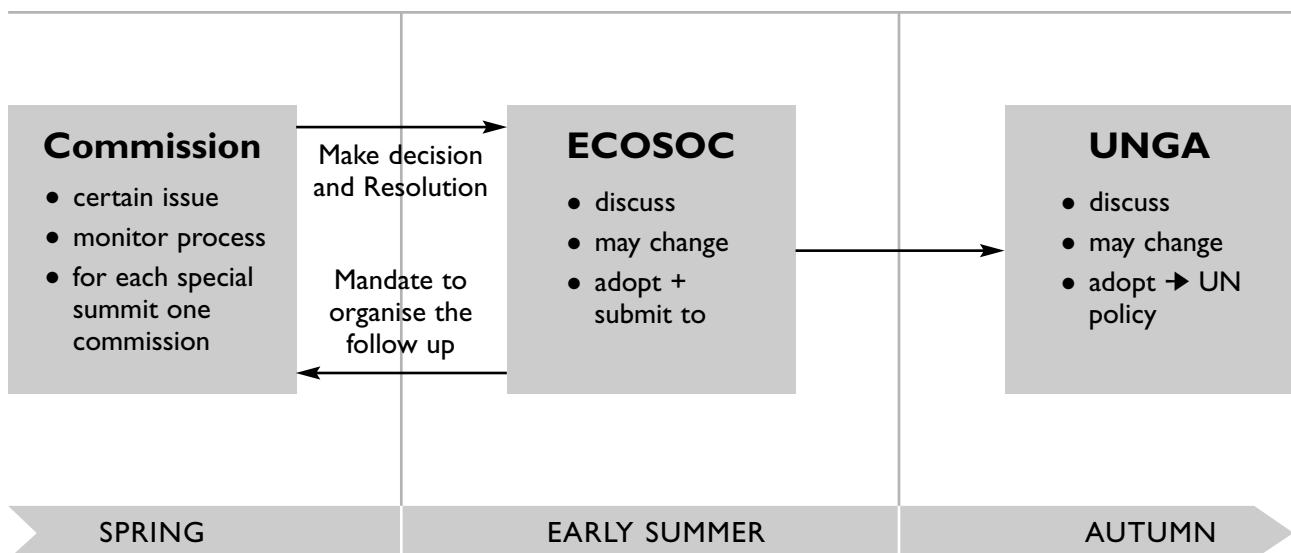


Figure 1: The Cycle of UN conferences

# Introduction to the Summits

United Nations resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or will of United Nations organs. They generally consist of two clearly defined parts: a preamble and an operative part. The preamble generally recites the considerations on the basis of which action is taken, an opinion expressed or a directive given. The operative part states the opinion of the organ or the action to be taken.

The term “decision” is used to designate formal actions, other than resolutions, dealing with non-substantive or routine matters such as elections, appointments, the time and place of meetings and the taking note of reports. They are sometimes also used to record the adoption of a text representing the consensus of the members of a given organ on a question.

There is a 5-year review cycle for all the Global Summits. Every five years after a Summit or Conference, there is a UN General Assembly Special Session to assess progress and decide upon follow-up. This ensures regular follow-up and monitoring at the General Assembly level where all UN Member States participate (as opposed to Commissions with limited membership).

This might change as many Member States – after the experiences with the 5-year reviews of the Rio Conference (1997), the Population Conference (1999), the Beijing and the Copenhagen Conferences (2000) – feel that monitoring and reviewing progress needs to be improved. For example, many people maintain that 5 years is not enough time to make significant progress in many areas so that reviews cannot deliver much new information. Others say that the review processes and events are too expensive and too much of a burden on poor and small countries to provide data, delegations, experts, etc.

To monitor progress annually or bi-annually, there are UN Commissions (*see 4.4.*). Related to every Summit or Conference theme, there is a Commission. The Commissions are mandated by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and meet every year at UN Headquarters.

Here is a list of the UN Summits and their monitoring processes and institutions (Commissions, UN General Assembly Special Sessions):

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## Children’s Summit Process

**EVENTS:** World Summit for Children 1990, Special Session on Children 2001

**BODIES:** United Nations Children’s Education Fund (UNICEF), Child’s Rights Information Network (CRIN)

At the 1990 World Summit for Children, 71 Heads of State and Government and other leaders signed the World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children and adopted a Plan of Action to achieve a set of goals. These goals included:

- Improving living conditions for children and their chances for survival by increasing access to health services for women and children
- Reducing the spread of preventable diseases
- Creating more opportunities for education
- Providing better sanitation and greater food supply; and protecting children in danger.

The Special Session on Children is a meeting of the UN General Assembly dedicated to the children and adolescents of the world. It will bring together government leaders and Heads of State, NGOs, children’s advocates and young people themselves from 19–21 September, 2001 at the United Nations in New York City.

The Special Session aims to conduct a full review of the progress made for children in the decade since the 1990 World Summit for Children and the World Declaration and Plan of Action. It also aims to generate a renewed commitment and a pledge for specific actions for the coming decade.

The Special Session is expected to produce a global agenda with a set of goals and a plan of action devoted to ensuring three essential outcomes:

- The best possible start in life for all children.
- A good-quality basic education for all children.
- The opportunities for all children, especially adolescents, for meaningful participation in their communities.

Visit the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) at <http://www.crin.org> for more information on NGO activities and issues, including thematic caucuses (i.e. Child Rights, Children and Armed Conflicts, and Girls Caucuses) and regional caucuses and coalitions.

**DOCUMENTS:** World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children 1990, Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, Goals for Children and Development in the 1990s

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## 1992: Sustainable Development/Rio Process

**EVENTS:** Earth Summit 1992  
Earth Summit II 1997 (5 year review/General Assembly Special Session to Review Progress on Implementation of Agenda 21, New York, 1997)  
The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002) (10 year review)

**BODIES:** Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)  
Successor to the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden

- Gathered 108 heads of State, who adopted Agenda 21, a global blueprint for sustainable development that has become the basis for many national plans. Over 1,800 cities and towns worldwide have since created their own “local Agenda 21”.
- Motivated some 150 countries to set up national advisory councils to promote dialogue between government officials, businesspeople, environmentalists and others on sustainable development policies.
- Led to four new international treaties, on climate change, biological diversity, desertification and high seas fishing.
- Set up the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to monitor the implementation of the Rio agreements and serve as a continuing forum for negotiating global environment and development policy.
- In June 1997, a special session of the UN General Assembly to assess implementation of Agenda 21 found that, despite progress in many areas, the global environment continues to deteriorate. Government leaders, including over 50 heads of State, agreed to further action – notably on fresh water, energy and transport – but few concrete commitments were made.

**DOCUMENTS:**  
**1992:** The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development – a series of principles defining the rights and responsibilities of States; Agenda 21 – a comprehensive programme of action for global action in all areas of sustainable development; The Statement of the Forest Principles – a set of principles to underlie the sustainable management of forests world-wide

**1997:** Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 1997

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## 1993: Human Rights/ Vienna Process

**EVENTS:** Human Rights Summit 1993 and Human Rights Review 1998

**BODIES:** Commission on Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

- Reaffirmed international commitment to all human rights, and to strengthening the mechanisms for monitoring and promoting human rights worldwide.
- Led to the appointment of the first High Commissioner for Human Rights, to improve the ability of the UN to act quickly and efficiently to prevent rights violations and promote fundamental freedoms.
- Instigated the inclusion of human rights as an integral element in UN peacekeeping missions, and declared the link between democracy, development and human rights.

**DOCUMENTS:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Teheran Declaration (1968), and Vienna Declaration (1993)

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## 1994: Population/Cairo Process

**EVENTS:** Population Summit 1994 and ICPD+5 1999

**BODIES:** Commission on Population and Development; UNFPA

- Built consensus for integrating family planning programmes into a new comprehensive approach to reproductive health services, and won international recognition that educating and empowering women is the most effective way to reduce population growth rates and promote sustainable development.
- Adopted a plan of action which sets specific resource targets for international population assistance, to enable countries to make reproductive health and family planning accessible to all by no later than 2015.
- Spurred donor countries to significantly increase funding for population-related activities, although total pledges this year are still well below the year 2000 goals set by the Conference.
- Reaffirmed the global consensus that voluntary family planning decisions are a basic human right of all couples and individuals, and that coercion in any form is unacceptable.

**OUTCOME DOCUMENT:** Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population & Development

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## 1995: Women/Beijing Process

**EVENTS:** Third World Conference on Women (Nairobi 1985), Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995) and Beijing+5 (New York 2000)

**BODIES:** Commission on the Status of Women; DAW; UNIFEM; UNDP/GDP; INSTRAW

- Agreed on a five-year action plan to enhance the social, economic and political empowerment of women, improve their health, advance their education and promote their marital and sexual rights. The action plan set time-specific targets, committing nations to carry out concrete actions in such areas as health, education and legal reforms.
- Galvanised some 130 countries to announce new initiatives to carry out the action plan, including, in the USA, a \$1.6 billion programme to fight violence against women, and the formation of a President's Council on Women.
- Added a new urgency to providing women with greater legal protection. The 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, often described as a Bill of Rights for women, has now been ratified by 163 countries (as of June 1999), up from 139 in May 1995.

**DOCUMENTS:** Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action (PFA)

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## 1995: Social Development / Copenhagen Process

**EVENTS:** Social Summit 1995 and Copenhagen+5 2000

**BODIES:** Commission on Social Development; UNRISD

- Brought together 117 heads of State who committed their governments to eradicating poverty "as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative". Since the Summit, a number of countries have set specific target dates for reducing poverty, and many have launched poverty assessment studies to plan long-term strategies.
- Focused attention on the negative side of economic globalisation: growing gaps between rich and poor, shrinking social safety nets, and increasing insecurity about jobs and social services in both developed and developing countries.
- Integrated the decisions of other conferences into a comprehensive and holistic plan for meeting basic human needs, reducing economic and social inequalities, and providing sustainable livelihoods.

**DOCUMENTS:** The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (containing 10 Commitments)

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## 1996: Human Settlements / Istanbul Process

**EVENTS:** Habitat I, Vancouver 1976; Habitat II Conference, Istanbul, 1996 and Istanbul+5 2001

**BODIES:** Commission on Human Settlements; United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat)

- Adopted a global plan and declaration setting out policy guidelines and Government commitments to improving living conditions in urban and rural settlements, and to the "full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing".
- Broke new ground by involving mayors and other local officials in the formal proceedings and recognised their key role as partners in implementing the Habitat action plan.
- Promoted information-sharing by showcasing over 500 "best practices" for improving the living environment – initiatives by government authorities and grassroots groups in over 90 countries that have proven effective in solving pressing housing and community problems.

**DOCUMENT:** The Habitat Agenda

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## 1996: World Food Summit, Rome

**EVENTS:** World Food Summit, Rome 1996

**BODIES:** Committee on World Food Security; FAO; IFAD; WFP

**DOCUMENTS:** Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action

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## 1996: UNCTAD 9

**EVENTS:** Ninth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Environment, Midrand, South Africa, May 1996

**BODIES:** Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

**DOCUMENTS:** Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development

## The Rio Process

*(from: Earth Summit 2002:  
A Briefing Paper by UNED Forum)*

### Where did it all Start?

Sustainable development lies at the heart of the Earth Summit process. The journey toward sustainable development has not been straightforward and is far from being fully achieved. In the last thirty years a whole series of events have brought us to the wide-ranging interpretation of sustainable development that we see today.

The concept of sustainable development dates back a long way but it was at the UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972) that the international community met for the first time to consider global environment and development needs (**Figure 1**). The Conference led to the formation of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan, which were also produced, defined principles for the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment, and highlighted the need to support people in this process. The Conference indicated that “industrialised” environmental concerns, such as habitat degradation, excessive consumption of natural resources and climate change, were not necessarily relevant issues for all countries. Development strategies were not meeting the needs of the poorest countries and communities. However, it was the pending environmental problems that dominated the meeting and wider public awareness. Books, such as “The Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson and “Limits to Growth” from the Club of Rome, gave a foretaste of the growing view that, if international development continues along its present path, the world is rapidly heading for a major breakdown.

In the 1980’s the UN set up the World Commission on Environment and Development, also known as the Brundtland Commission. They produced “Our Common Future”, otherwise known as the Brundtland Report, which framed much of what would become the 40 chapters of Agenda 21 and the 27 principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. It defined sustainable development as development, which meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The 20th anniversary of Stockholm took place in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The UN Conference on Environment and Development, the “Earth Summit”,

agreed Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration. These documents outlined key policies for achieving sustainable development that meets the needs of the poor and recognises the limits of development to meet global needs. “Needs” was therefore interpreted not solely in terms of economic interests but also to be those of a fully functional, harmonious, global system that incorporates people and ecosystems. **Figure 2** (next page) outlines the four broad areas of action within Agenda 21.

### Redressing the Balance

The Summit brought environment and development issues firmly into the public arena. Along with the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 it led to agreement on two legally binding conventions: Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. It also produced a Statement of Forest Principles. The Earth Summit gave rise to a number of positive responses including the emergence of thousands of Local Agenda 21 initiatives and the enhanced political profile of environmental issues. It led to the formation of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) and many countries set up sustainable development commissions and national strategies.

### Some Details about the 1992 Conference

- **Number of Governments participating:** 172, 108 at level of heads of State or Government
- **Conference Secretary-General:** Maurice F. Strong, Canada
- **Organisers:** UNCED secretariat
- **NGO presence:** Some 2,400 representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs); 17,000 people attended the parallel NGO Forum
- **Follow-up mechanisms:** Commission on Sustainable Development; Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development; High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development (concluded 1997)

**Figure 2: Steps to Earth Summit 2002**

Other Key Events	UN Sustainable Development Process
<b>1982</b> UNEP's first high level meeting (Kenya) Convention on Straddling and Migratory Fish Stocks (signed)	<b>1972</b> UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm) Establishes UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
<b>1990</b> Children's Summit (New York)	<b>1983</b> World Commission on Environment & Development (Brundtland Commission) set up Brundtland Report 'Our Common Future' 1987
<b>1992</b> Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>1992</b> UN Conference on Environment & Development – 'Earth Summit'. Establishes UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Accession of FCCC and CBD.
<b>1993</b> Human Rights Summit (Vienna)	<b>1993</b> CSD first five-year programme.
<b>1994</b> Population Summit (Cairo) Convention on Combating Desertification (Paris)	<b>1997</b> Rio + 5 Summit Review
<b>1995</b> Social Summit (Copenhagen) Women's Summit (Beijing) World Trade Organisation (WTO) established	<b>1998–2001</b> CSD second five-year programme. Overarching themes: poverty, changing production & consumption patterns.
<b>1996</b> Human Settlements Conference (Istanbul) Food Summit (Rome)	
<b>1997</b> Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (signed)	
<b>1999</b> Cairo + 5 (Population)	
<b>2000</b> Beijing + 5 (Women) Copenhagen + 5 (Social) Millennium Summit (New York)	<b>2001</b> (May) CSD 10 Global Preparatory Committee 1 Organisational issues. Defining modalities of process (set up a multi-stakeholder committee).
<b>2001</b> World Youth Forum (Dakar) UNEP Governing Council (21st session, Kenya) Istanbul + 5 (Human settlements) New York + 11 (Children) International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn) UN Conference on Less Developed States (3rd) Financing for Development WTO negotiations on trade in services	<b>2002</b> (Jan) Global Preparatory Committee 2 Substantive review. Secretary General's reports on global, regional and national progress (2-day input from major groups). (March) Global Preparatory Committee 3. Finalise review. (May) Global Preparatory Committee 4. Identification & consensus building over priority areas, and strategies for next 5–10 years (multi-stakeholder groups presenting proposals).
<b>2003</b> 2003 Environment for Europe Conference (Kiev)	

**EARTH SUMMIT 2002 (RIO +10)**  
*Johannesburg, South Africa*  
 Defining national, regional and global commitments. Including half-day dialogue with major groups.

**Figure 3:** *Elements of Agenda 21*

Issues	
<b>Social and Economic dimensions to development</b>	Poverty, Production and Consumption, Health, Human Settlement, Integrated decision making
<b>Conservation and management of natural resources</b>	Atmosphere, Oceans and Seas, Land, Forests, Mountains, Biological Diversity, Ecosystems, Biotechnology, Freshwater resources, Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous radioactive and solid wastes
<b>Strengthening role of Major Groups</b>	Youth, Women, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Government Organisations, Local Authorities, Trade Unions, Business, Scientific and technical communities, Farmers
<b>Means of Implementation</b>	Finance, Technology transfer, Information, Public Awareness, Capacity Building, Education, Legal Instruments, Institutional frameworks

**Figure 4:** *Preparations for Earth Summit 2002*

Activities	
<p><b>National</b> <i>Late 2000 – Spring 2001</i></p>	<p>National preparations will be coordinated by national multi-stakeholder committees for sustainable development – to begin to define national agendas and undertake a review of progress. Public consultations and meetings, previous National Reports to the CSD and National Strategies for Sustainable Development will all help to inform this process. The UN CSD has suggested four national activities, in particular countries are asked to define 4–5 national targets (by April 2001) to take domestic sustainable development forward.</p>
<p><b>Regional</b> <i>Spring – Winter 2001</i></p>	<p>Regional meetings of governments and other major groups will seek to build consensus over critical issues for progressing regional sustainable development – identifying areas of priority action and highlighting local examples of good practice. The processes will be informed by roundtables of regional experts, which will seek to highlight problems, solutions and priorities, as well as to set targets. Sub-regional processes may also contribute to this process.</p>
<p><b>Global</b> <i>Late 2001 – Summer 2002</i></p>	<p>Immediately after the ninth CSD (15th–27th April 2001) the first Global Preparatory Committee (PrepComm 1) meeting will take place. The UN Secretary General will produce a global report on progress for the second PC, as well as reports on the outcomes of the regional and national review processes. By 2002 UNEP is planning to produce Global Environment Outlook 3 – a thirty-year review on global environmental issues. Other intergovernmental and international institutions will also input to the process, along with major groups.</p>

## Agreements Reached at Rio and Since

- **Agenda 21** – negotiated by governments during preparation for the Earth Summit, Agenda 21 does not represent any binding commitment by governments, but constitutes a ‘blueprint for sustainable development’. Its 40 chapters covered most areas of human activity, with some notable omissions (energy, tourism, transport), which have since been addressed at the CSD.
- **The Rio Declaration** – a set of 27 Principles endorsed by governments supporting ‘the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of co-operation among States, key actors of societies and people’
- **The Forestry Principles**
- **The Framework Convention on Climate Change** – a legally binding agreement; the parties to the Convention meet to agree shared targets and commitments (so-called “Conferences of the Parties”).
- **The Convention on Biological Diversity** – a legally binding agreement; the parties to the Convention meet to agree shared targets and commitments.
- **The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)** – set up after the Earth Summit as the focus within the UN System for monitoring implementation of the Rio agreements. Intended as a catalyst for action at national and international levels

## Related International Agreements Reached Since 1992 Include:

- **The Convention to Combat Desertification** (1994)
- **The Conference on Small Island Developing States** (1994)
- **The Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks** (1995)
- **The CSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests** (1996–7)
- **The CSD Intergovernmental Forum on Forests** (since 1998)

# Earth Summit 2002 Resources

## Relevant Websites

United Nations:

<http://www.un.org/rio+10>

UNED Forum:

<http://www.earthsummit2002.org>

Rio+8 Coalition:

<http://www.rio8.dk>

## Information by the CSD Secretariat

*CSD–10, April/May 2001: The 1st Preparatory Meeting for Earth Summit 2002*

In 2002, the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, a Summit of world leaders will assess progress achieved since 1992 and give guidance for the next phase of activities to achieve sustainable development. This Summit – the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa – will be preceded by a series of national, regional and international gatherings and consultations to identify the successes and failures of the last ten years, as well as build consensus on future priorities and commitments by governments and stakeholders.

The 2002 progress review exercise, known as Rio+10, will be participatory and inclusive, building on the CSD tradition of openness, transparency and multi-stakeholder participation. Making this a truly useful and productive exercise will require full engagement of all major groups. This section of the guidelines provides your organisation with a road map as far as it is known at present.

## Local and National Activities

The success of an honest and useful progress review will depend on local and national reviews of progress so that the final review outcome is grounded in local and national realities, achievements, recognition of obstacles and aspirations of what needs to be done in the next phase. A lively national engagement among all governmental and non-governmental institutions and actors will not only make the review exercise meaningful but also mobilise individuals and institutions behind the global goal of sustainability.

The CSD Secretariat has called upon the Governments to launch a number of activities, through their national preparatory committees or other similar co-ordination mechanisms, to help mobilise and engage

the public in the national Rio+10 preparations. These activities include:

**101 Ways to Sustainable Development:** a national search for the best sustainable development success story to be submitted to the CSD Secretariat for a publication showcasing the 101 ways to achieve sustainability. The cases would be uploaded on the Rio+10 web site as they are submitted with links to the originator and the submitting country.

**Sustainable Development Visions:** a national call for submission of visions of a sustainable world by all ages. One Vision is to be selected by the national committee (or equivalent) to be submitted for publication. The Visions would be made available to the world leaders at the Summit Meeting and widely disseminated throughout the Rio+10 process.

**Children's Agenda 21 Posters:** a national poster competition to engage and inspire the imaginations of children aged 6–12. Each national committee is to select one poster to submit to the CSD Secretariat. An exhibition at the Summit meeting would showcase to world leaders and other summit participants the aspirations, hopes and expectations of the younger generation.

**National Progressions:** a national process to identify 3–5 achievable progress targets that the country can commit to achieving in the next 5–10 years. The aim is to generate independent or joint actions that will further the slow but sure transition towards a sustainable global society. The National Progressions of a country are its own targets based on its own priorities and capabilities rather than those that may be agreed globally through inter-governmental negotiations. A high level multi-stakeholder dialogue segment at the Summit could be the forum at which countries share their progression targets with the commitments from major group representatives.

## Regional Activities

The UN's Regional Economic Commissions, the regional offices of UN Environment Programme, the UN Development Programme Regional Bureaux and the CSD Secretariat are collaborating to organise regional preparatory committee meetings (PrepComm) in all regions of the world. The Regional PrepComms are expected to take place in the summer and fall of 2001 to generate useful inputs for the global review exercise to start in January 2002. National assessments are expected to be the basis of the discussions. The schedule of the Regional PrepComms as well as focal points you can contact will be made public on our Website (<http://www.un.org/rio+10>) as soon as this information is finalised.

A regional roundtable will precede each Regional PrepComm. The regional roundtables will bring

together regional experts from a diversity of backgrounds to conduct a non-political and unfettered discussion of regional progress and future directions. Reports from the regional roundtables will be available to the Regional PrepComms.

## Global Review Process and Activities

CSD10 will act as the Rio+10 PrepComm. A series of CSD10–PrepComm meetings are planned. CSD10–PrepComm I is scheduled immediately after the conclusion of CSD9. This meeting is expected to primarily focus on organisational matters related to the global Rio+10 process. CSD10–PrepComm II is scheduled for January 2002. This meeting will start the substantive review of progress at the global level. The discussions will be based on the Secretary-General's report on overall review of progress, as well as from the outputs of the Regional PrepComms. Early in the course of PrepComm II, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue with all nine major group sectors is planned. The topics of the stakeholder dialogue will be based on the outline of the Secretary-General's overall review report.

CSD10–PrepComm III, in March 2002, may continue and finalise the overall inter-governmental review exercise unless the review is finalised at the January meeting.

CSD10–PrepComm IV is planned for May 2002, to be held in Indonesia at Ministerial level. The focus at this stage is expected to be on identifying and building consensus on priorities and strategies for the next 5 to 10 years. A one or half-day multi-stakeholder dialogue (depending on the length of this session) is planned to give opportunities to major group representatives to share their proposals and ideas regarding what needs to be done in the next phase of sustainable development work.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development will be the culmination of the process. It will be held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. At the summit meeting, a half-day multi-stakeholder high-level dialogue segment is planned. This dialogue segment is an opportunity for major groups and governments to share their specific sustainable development commitments for the next phase. The national commitments are expected to emerge from the National Progression Targets process described above.

A number of Global Roundtables are also planned. Their composition and purpose will be similar to the regional roundtables described above. The recommendations from the Global Roundtables will be available to the CSD10–PrepComm meetings.

The CSD Secretariat is also launching a number of global studies related to major groups. One such

study is the Second International Survey of Local Agenda 21 Initiatives, and will be conducted jointly by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the CSD Secretariat. A second study being considered is a systematic analysis of the Multi-stakeholder dialogue format pioneered by the CSD in 1998. A third study will aim to generate an independent review of major group participation in sustainable development decision-making processes.

The CSD Secretariat will disseminate further detail on the Rio+10 preparations by way of a dedicated web site ([www.un.org/rio+10](http://www.un.org/rio+10)), the CSD Update, a special list-server for electronic dissemination, and other available means. Information in print will be made available to ensure that major groups with limited access to the Internet are well informed in a timely fashion.

The CSD Secretariat encourages all major group organisations to support and take an active part in this milestone event at which the global community is to renew its commitment to making a sustainable world in which life in all its diversity is respected, enhanced and dignified.

An update on matters related to NGO and major group participation in and contributions to Rio+10 process will be released in early 2001 and further updates will be released as details become available. The CSD Secretariat will arrange for electronic NGO/major group registration for Rio+10. Please check our web site regularly or contact the Major Groups Programme Coordinator Zehra Aydin-Sipos at [aydin@un.org](mailto:aydin@un.org).