

Non paper

High-level plenary meeting
of the General Assembly of September 2005

I. Values and principles

1. We, Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005.
2. We recognize the valuable role of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Summit, in mobilizing the international community at the local, national, regional and global levels and in guiding the work of the United Nations in the economic, social, human rights, environmental and related fields, and we reaffirm their outcomes and renew our commitment to fully implement their outcomes in an integrated and coordinated manner.
3. We recall the United Nations Millennium Declaration we adopted at the dawn of the twenty-first century and reaffirm our faith in the Organization and our commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, and the respect for international law. We further reaffirm that core values and principles, such as freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, rule of law, shared responsibility, multilateralism, non resort to the threat or use of force and respect for human rights and human dignity are essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States.
4. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, non interference in the internal affairs of states, resolution of disputes by peaceful means, and the right of self-determination of peoples.
5. We reaffirm the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, with a strong United Nations at its core, in order to better address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world and achieve progress in the areas of development, security and human rights, and commit to spare no efforts in promoting and strengthening the effectiveness of the organization and implementation of its decisions.
6. We believe that today, more than ever before, we live in a global and interdependent world. No State can stand wholly alone. We acknowledge that collective security depends on effective cooperation against transnational threats. We recognize that we all share responsibility for each other's security.
7. We agree that current developments and circumstances require that we urgently build consensus on major threats and challenges. We commit to translate that consensus into concrete action, including addressing the root causes of those threats and challenges.

8. We pledge to make the United Nations more effective, more efficient, more accountable and more credible and to provide the Organization with the resources needed to fully implement its mandates. This is our shared responsibility and our common interest.

9. We acknowledge that development, security and human rights form the indispensable foundations for collective security and well-being and that they are the pillars of the United Nations system. We reaffirm that development is a central goal by itself, and reaffirm that sustainable development constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities, and commit ourselves to fully implement the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, human rights, environmental and related fields, including the Millennium Development Goals.

10. We also acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty and hunger.

11. We recognize that our nations and peoples will not enjoy development without security, nor will they enjoy security without development, and that they will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.

12. We reaffirm that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for women are essential to advance development, security and human rights.

13. We reaffirm that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We acknowledge the importance of respect and understanding of religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, especially through dialogue and cooperation, to promote international peace and security and enhance human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere as well as the universality and indivisibility of all human rights, and the need to encourage dialogue, understanding, tolerance and respect among different cultures, civilizations and peoples as a means to promote, inter alia, international peace and security.

14. We therefore resolve to take concrete measures with a view to ensuring effective follow up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit in the four following areas:

- Development
- Peace and collective security
- Human rights and rule of law
- Strengthening of the United Nations

II. Development

15. Recognizing the centrality of economic development as the means to eradicate poverty and achieve global prosperity for all, we emphasize the role played by the major United Nations conferences and summits in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives, which contributed to improving human life in different parts of the world.

16. We remain however concerned by the slow and uneven implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium development Goals and reaffirm our commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all. To this end we commit to promote the development of the productive sectors of developing countries in order to enable them to participate effectively in the increasingly open trading environment and thereby to take full advantage of the process of globalization.

Global partnership for development

17. We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives that emerged from the major United Nations Conferences and Summits, including the Millennium Development Goals that have galvanized unprecedented efforts towards meeting the needs of the world's poorest.

18. We reaffirm our commitment to the global partnership for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, based on mutual responsibility and accountability as agreed in Millennium Declaration and in 2002 at the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

19. We reaffirm that each country must take primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. We recognize also that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at maximizing the development opportunities of developing countries. To these ends, we resolve to:

- Adopt, by 2006, and begin to implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals
- Manage public finances to achieve and maintain macro-economic stability and long-term growth and to make effective and transparent use of public funds; and ensure that development assistance is used to build national capacities

- Support starting in 2005, efforts by developing countries to adopt and implement national development policies and strategies, through increased development assistance, and to promote international trade as an engine for development, transfer of technology, increased investment flows and wider and deeper debt relief
- Support developing countries by providing predictable and sufficient increase in aid of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner to enable them to achieve the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals and ensure that developing countries have the required policy space to formulate their national development strategies
- Enhance the role of NGOs, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development.

Financing for development

20. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus and recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development is central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard:

- We are encouraged by recent commitments to and substantial increases in official development assistance that has been forthcoming since 2002
- We resolve to promote good governance at all levels, combat corruption at national and international levels, pursue sound macro-economic policies and put in place the policies and investments to drive sustained economic growth, stimulate the private sector, promote employment generation and maximize domestic resources to fund national development strategies
- We welcome the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by no later than 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent by 2009 and invite those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to establish timetables in order to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent; we also urge developed countries to achieve the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for ODA to least developed countries
- We further welcome recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality and increase the impact of aid, including the Paris Action Plan of the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, and resolve to take concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, including through further aligning assistance with countries strategies, streamlining conditionalities, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening focus on development results

- We recognize the need for increased and more predictable resources, and in that regard take note with interest of international efforts, contributions and discussions such as the Action Against Hunger and Poverty aimed at identifying innovative and additional sources of financing for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis
- We underline the urgent need for increased investment now, and therefore for immediate front-loading of additional ODA commitments; and in that regard, welcome the decision to launch, in 2005, an International Finance Facility (IFF) to support an immediate front-loading of ODA commitments and encourage broad participation; and also welcome the pilot IFF project, on a voluntary basis, for immunization and a solidarity contribution on plane tickets to finance development projects, in particular in the health sector, including the fight against HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, and agree to consider further other solidarity contributions that would be nationally applied and internationally coordinated
- We resolve to promote greater foreign direct investment flows to developing countries to support their development activities and to enhance the benefits they can derive from such investments
- We undertake measures to promote and sustain adequate and stable international capital flows to developing countries, particularly countries in Africa, Least Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States, and landlocked developing countries, and to countries with economies in transition
- We continue to support development efforts of middle income developing countries by agreeing in competent multilateral and international fora and also through bilateral arrangements, on measures to help them meet, inter alia, their financial, technical and technological requirements, including through appropriate debt relief schemes

Quick Wins

21. We agree to support the establishment and implementation of country led "quick win" initiatives consistent with long-term national development strategies so as to realize major immediate progress towards the development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals through such measures as the free distribution of malaria bed nets and effective antimalaria medicines, the expansion of home-grown school meals programmes using locally produced foods and the elimination of user fees for primary education and health services.

Global Governance

22. We reaffirm the commitment contained in the Monterrey Consensus to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and to this end undertake to find pragmatic and innovative ways to enhance the effective participation of those countries therein, particularly in the Bretton Woods institutions.

23. We further reaffirm the need for the United Nations to play a more decisive and central role in international development policy and in ensuring coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed by the international community.

South-South Cooperation

24. We recognize the achievements and potential of South-South Cooperation, and encourage the promotion of such cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation as an effective contribution to development and as a means to share and transfer best practices and appropriate technologies, and call on the international community to lend its full support, including through triangular cooperation.

25. We undertake to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly, including by making voluntary contributions to it.

Debt

26. We emphasize the urgent need for an effective, comprehensive, durable and development-oriented solution to the debt problems of developing countries. To this end we:

- Welcome the recent decision of the G8 countries to cancel 100% outstanding debts of eligible HIPC to the IMF, IDA and AFD and to provide additional resources to ensure that the financing capacity of the IFIs is not reduced
- Stress that in assessing debt sustainability, consideration should be given to the new debt sustainability framework which aims in particular at increasing grant-based financing and at limiting the risk of future debt distress and to the key role debt relief can play in liberating resources, so as to enable a country to achieve its national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals
- Further stress the need to consider additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt, debt sustainability through increased grant-based financing, 100% debt cancellation of the official debt of HIPC and non HIPC LDCs, and significant debt reduction and cancellation for many heavily indebted non-HIPC low and middle income developing countries. This should be achieved without reducing resources channeled as ODA as well as other sources of financing available to other developing countries, while stressing the need to maintain the financial integrity of the multilateral financial institutions.

Trade

27. We recommit to promote a universal, rules based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, recognizing the major role that trade can play in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all, and undertake to:

- Achieve the fullest realization of the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration including in the critical areas identified in the 1 August 2004 decision of the General Council of the WTO; and to successfully complete, by 2006, the World Trade Organization Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations
- Provide immediate duty-free and quota-free market access for all exports from the least developed countries to the markets of developed countries as well as to the markets of developing countries in a position to do so; and support their efforts to overcome their supply side constraints
- Support and promote increased aid to build productive and trade capacities of developing countries and to take further steps in this regard
- Accelerate the accession of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to the WTO, recognizing the importance of the attainment of universality of WTO membership.

Education

28. We emphasize the critical role of both formal and informal education, in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, creating human resources and infrastructure capabilities and in empowering those living in poverty. In this context, we reaffirm the Dakar framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum and recognize the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education by 2015.

Food security

29. We reaffirm that food security, rural and agricultural development must be adequately addressed in the context of national development and response strategies. We are convinced that eradication of poverty and hunger is crucial for the achievement of the MDGs. Rural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies. We deem it necessary to increase productive investment in rural and agricultural developments to achieve food security. We commit ourselves to increase ODA to agriculture and trade opportunities for developing countries.

Employment

30. We strongly support a fair globalization and resolve to make the goal of productive employment and decent work for all, including *for young people*, a central objective of our national and international macro-economic policies as well as poverty reduction strategies. These measures should also encompass the elimination of child labor.

Sustainable development

31. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of sustainable development including through the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to undertake concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhance international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles, inter alia the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We recognize that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the world. We call for further technological and financial international cooperation for the sustainable use and management of natural resources in order to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns as a means of keeping the balance between the conservation of natural resources and the furtherance of social and economic objectives. We therefore resolve to:

- Undertake concerted global action to mitigate climate change, including through meeting all commitments and obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, the UNFCCC and other relevant international agreements, increase energy efficiency, technological innovation, and to initiate negotiations to develop a more inclusive international framework for climate change beyond 2012, with broader participation by both developing and developed countries, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities
- Continue to assist developing countries, particularly SIDS, LDCs and countries in Africa in addressing their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change
- Combat desertification by supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010; and undertake to intensify ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing with the aim of adopting an instrument/instruments to effectively implement relevant provisions of the Convention
- Establish a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards, with regional nodes, building on existing national and regional capacity by 2006
- Commit to fully implementing the Hyogo Declaration and Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 adopted at World Conference on Disaster Reduction, particularly those commitments related to assistance to affected and disaster-prone developing countries

- Assist developing countries efforts to access water and basic sanitation for all and to accelerate the preparation of national integrated water management and water-efficiency plans
- Improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable and environmentally sound energy services, in particular to developing countries on favourable terms
- Strengthen the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations by supporting the United Nations Forum on forests, with the assistance of the collaborative partnership on forests, as key intergovernmental mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels
- Improve cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to address all aspects of oceans and seas in an integrated manner and to promote integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas
- Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2015 recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading and increased contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility.

HIV/AIDS and other health issues

32. We recognize that HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of development goals. These diseases and other emerging health challenges require a concerted international response. To this end, we commit ourselves to:

- Welcome the World Health Assemblies updated International Health Regulations in 2005 and call on all States to ensure their full implementation, and emphasize the need to increase resources for the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
- Ensure that the resources needed for prevention, treatment, care and support, the elimination of stigma and discrimination, as well as enhanced access to affordable medicines, reduced vulnerability of affected persons in particular orphan children, and an expanded and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS, and for full funding of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, are provided universally by 2010
- Actively work to implement the Three Ones principles in all countries including ensuring that multiple institutions and international partners all work with national AIDS coordinating authorities to align their support to national strategies, policies, systems, cycles and annual priorities action plans

- Strengthen by 2010 the health system in developing countries, with sufficient health workers, resources, infrastructures, management systems, and supplies to achieve the health related MDGs
- Launch by 2006 a global initiative to strengthen the national health systems in developing countries
- Achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015 as set out at the ICPD, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration aiming at improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty
- Ensure long term public funding for academic and for industrial research, as well as development of new medicines and treatments to address the great pandemics and other tropical diseases.

Gender equality and empowerment of women

33. We reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; and resolve to promote gender equality and to eliminate pervasive gender discrimination by:

- Eliminating gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by 2006 and at all educational levels by 2015
- Guaranteeing the right of women to property and ensuring secure tenure of property to women
- Ensuring access to reproductive health
- Promoting women's equal access to labour markets
- Ensuring the protection of women in armed conflicts in accordance with the obligations of States under international humanitarian law
- Supporting direct actions to protect women and girl child from violence.

34. We recognize the importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality. To this end, we undertake to actively promote mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres.

Science and technology for development

35. We recognize that science and technology play a critical role in the achievement of the development goals and that international support is essential for enabling developing countries to benefit from the technological advancements. We therefore commit to:

- Strengthen existing mechanisms and launch a global initiative to support research and development to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change
- Promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to developing countries
- Implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both domestic and foreign investments that enhances knowledge, transfers technology and raises productivity
- Supplement the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agriculture technologies, in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means and
- Build a people centered and inclusive information society so as to bridge the digital divide and put the potential of ICTs at the service of development and address new challenges of information society *by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the WSIS*, and by ensuring the success of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Tunis in November 2005.

Migration

36. We acknowledge the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with this issue in a coordinated and coherent manner with a view to addressing the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit. We recognize that international migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community. We further recognize the need to enhance international cooperation on migration issues to ensure that the movement of people across borders is managed in a more effective and humane manner. In this regard, we resolve to ensure the success of the General Assembly high-level dialogue on international migration and development in 2006 which will offer an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts.

Countries with special needs

37. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of LLDCs, and urge developed countries, and developing countries in a position to do so as well as all relevant organizations of the UN system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010.

38. We recognize the special needs and challenges faced by LDCs and therefore reaffirm our commitment to urgently address those needs and challenges through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Sao Paulo Consensus adopted at UNCTAD XI. Such implementation should be quantified with a time bound set of indicators to measure the progress.

39. We recognize the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS and reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete actions to address these needs and vulnerabilities through the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy adopted by the United Nations International Meeting, the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the 22nd Special Session of the General Assembly. We further undertake, starting in 2006, to promote greater international cooperation for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy through the mobilization of financial resources on a more predictable basis.

40. We also emphasize the need for continued, coordinated and effective international support for achieving the development goals in countries emerging from conflict and recovering from disasters, in particular through the UN Peace building Commission.

Meeting the special needs of Africa

41. Welcoming the substantial progress Africa has made in recent years in addressing its challenges and realizing its opportunities, and the recent decisions taken by African partners, including the G8 and the European Union, in support of Africa's development efforts, we reaffirm our commitment to urgently meet the special needs of Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, to enable it to enter the mainstream of the world economy, we resolve to:

- Strengthen cooperation with NEPAD through coherent support for the programmes drawn up by the African leaders within that framework, including through mobilization of external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions
- Support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the AU, NEPAD, World Bank and African Development Bank, recognized by NEPAD as the lead infrastructure agency, to facilitate infrastructure investment

- Promote comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, including through 100% cancellation of multilateral debt consistent with the HIPC Initiative and significant debt reduction and cancellation for heavily indebted non-HIPC low and middle income developing countries
- Make efforts to fully integrate African countries in the international trading system, including through targeted capacity-building programmes on bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations
- Commit to support the efforts of commodity dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors and decide to work towards market-based arrangements with the participation of the private sector for commodity price risk management
- Supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable way, as part of an African Green Revolution to be launched in 2005
- Encourage and support the African regional and sub-regional organizations' initiatives to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts with the assistance of the United Nations
- Attach priority to providing assistance for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment in African countries on a grant basis, and to encourage pharmaceutical companies to make anti-retroviral drugs affordable and accessible in Africa and ensure increased support for bilateral and multilateral assistance to combat malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa.

III. Peace and collective security

42. We recognize that we are facing a whole range of threats, including armed conflicts between and within States, the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, terrorism and organized crime, poverty and the rapid spread of highly infectious diseases and severe environmental degradation that require our urgent, collective and more determined response.

43. We recognize that, in accordance with the Charter, addressing these threats requires a comprehensive approach and cooperation among all principal organs of the United Nations within their respective competence.

44. We acknowledge that we are living in an interdependent and global world and that today's threats recognize no national boundaries, are interlinked and must be tackled at the global, regional and national levels.

45. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to implement a security consensus based on the recognition that many threats are interlinked, that development, security and human rights are mutually dependent, that no State can best protect itself by acting entirely alone and that all States need an effective, equitable and efficient collective security system, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

46. We resolve to take concerted action, through such a system of collective security, based on the Charter and respect for international law, so as to prevent, mitigate and remove threats to peace and security, respond effectively to natural disasters, ensure economic development and the full enjoyment of human rights for all States and peoples.

Protecting children in armed conflicts

47. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and protect the right and welfare of children in armed conflicts. We call upon States, as appropriate, to ratify, and implement the optional protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on the participation of children in armed conflicts and to take effective measures to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups and to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

48. We also reaffirm our commitment to ensure that children in armed conflicts receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance, including education, and to take effective measures for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Pacific settlement of disputes

49. We call upon States to refrain from all threats and uses of force contrary to the Charter, and to settle their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, including, when appropriate, by the most effective use of the International Court of Justice. All States shall also act in accordance with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

50. We stress the importance of conflict prevention in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and solemnly renew our commitment to promote a culture of prevention as a means of effectively addressing the interconnected security and development challenges faced by peoples throughout the world, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for conflict prevention and to ensure that conflict prevention is a centerpiece of effective multilateralism and United Nations reform.

51. We further stress the importance of a coherent and comprehensive approach to the prevention of armed conflicts and dispute settlements and the need for the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General to coordinate their activities within their respective Charter mandates.

52. Recognizing the important role of the Secretary-General's good offices, including the mediation of disputes, we support the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen his capacity in this area.

Women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts

53. We stress the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. We also underline the importance of the integration of gender perspective and women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as the need to increase their role in decision-making at all levels. We strongly condemn all violations of human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflicts and the use of sexual exploitations, and violence and abuse, and commit to elaborating and implementing strategies to prevent and report on gender-base violence.

Peacekeeping

54. Recognizing that peacekeeping plays a vital role in helping parties to conflict end hostilities, noting improvements made in recent years to United Nations peacekeeping and stressing the need to mount operations with adequate capacity to counter hostilities and fulfill effectively their mandates, we urge further consideration of the proposal for the establishment of a strategic military reserve capacity to reinforce UN peacekeeping missions in times of crises and the creation of a standing capacity for rapid deployment of United Nations civilian police in peacekeeping.

55. Recognizing the vital contribution to peace and security being made by regional organizations and the importance of forging predictable partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, and noting in particular, given the special needs of Africa, the importance of a strong African Union, we agree to:

- Support the efforts of the European Union and other regional entities to develop standby capacities
- Develop and implement a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union

Peacebuilding

56. Emphasizing the need for a coordinated, coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding with a view to achieving sustainable peace, and recognizing the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflicts towards recovering, reintegration and development, and recognizing further the vital role of the United Nations in this regard, we decide to:

- Establish a Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body to assist and mobilize support to countries emerging from conflict. Its main purpose is to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and advise on and propose comprehensive strategies for peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery.

The Peacebuilding Commission will be able to consider any matter brought before it by the Security Council, and any Member State of the United Nations, in an exceptionally difficult situation on the verge of relapsing into conflict, should be able to request the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission relating to its own situation. The Peacebuilding Commission should make the outcome of its discussions available to all relevant bodies and actors of the United Nations. The Peacebuilding Commission should provide advice on peacebuilding strategies for countries emerging from conflict to such bodies as are actively seized of the issue, in accordance with the Charter

- Support the establishment of a multi-year standing fund for post-conflict peacebuilding
- Request the Secretary-General to establish a Peacebuilding Support Office within the Secretariat

57. We request the President of the General Assembly, assisted by the Secretary-General, to conduct consultations with Member States in order to develop the necessary modalities for the effective operation of the Peacebuilding Commission, including its composition, its rules of procedure and financial arrangements for its functioning, so that the body can begin operations no later than 31 December 2005.

Sanctions

58. We agree that sanctions remain an important tool under the United Nations Charter in our efforts to maintain international peace and security without recourse to the use of force, and resolve to ensure that sanctions are carefully targeted in support of clear objectives, subject to time limits, where appropriate, and are implemented and monitored effectively with clear benchmarks and accountability, to comply with sanctions established by the Security Council, and to ensure that sanctions are implemented in ways that mitigate the adverse consequences, including socio-economic and humanitarian, for populations and third States.

59. We call upon the Security Council, with the support of the Secretary-General, to improve its monitoring of the implementation and effects of sanctions, to ensure that sanctions are implemented in an accountable manner and to review regularly the results of such monitoring, and to develop a mechanism to address special economic problems arising from carrying out sanctions, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. We also call upon the Security Council and the Secretary-General to ensure that fair and transparent procedures, in accordance with international standards of due process, exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions.

60. We agree to support efforts through United Nations agencies to strengthen State capacity to implement sanctions provisions.

Use of force

61. We reiterate our commitment to refrain from the threats or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. We reaffirm that the purposes and principles guiding the United Nations are to maintain international peace and security, and to that end to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.

62. We also reaffirm that the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use of force are sufficient to address the full range of security threats and agree that the use of force should be considered as an instrument of last resort. We further reaffirm the authority of the Security Council to take action to maintain and restore international peace and security, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Charter.

63. We recognize the need to continue discussing principles for the use of force, as identified by the Secretary-General.

Disarmament and non-proliferation

64. We appeal to all States to pursue and intensify negotiations with a view to advancing disarmament and strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

65. We urge all States to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and we pledge to comply fully with all the articles of those conventions, in order to strengthen the multilateral framework for non-proliferation and disarmament and to achieve full adherence to these instruments.

66. Taking into account the outcomes of the NPT Review Conference in 2005, we reiterate our firm commitment to the NPT and its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful use of nuclear energy. We look forward to strengthening the NPT's implementation, including through future Review Conferences.

67. We resolve to:

- Appeal to all States to take action, in a multilateral framework, to prevent and eliminate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery
- Also appeal to the nuclear weapon States to take concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament with the objective of eliminating all such weapons, including through the implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

- Maintain a moratorium on nuclear test explosions pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and call upon all States to sign or ratify the Treaty
- Strengthen verification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by concluding the Model Additional Protocol, the standard for compliance, and to conclude such protocol without delay
- Support and continue to work towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones in order to reinforce regional peace, coexistence, prevent proliferation and advance disarmament
- Call upon the nuclear weapons States to reaffirm their commitment to Negative Security Assurances
- Strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention through continued multilateral and national efforts to improve its verification and implementation
- Complete the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles consistent with the Chemical Weapons Convention in a timely and effective manner
- Prevent non-State actors from gaining access to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related technology and materials as well as their means of delivery, including by strengthening relevant national control measures and by complying with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
- Promote timely agreement to prevent the spread of uranium enrichment and plutonium separation technologies and facilities that respect fully the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as set out in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including alternatives such as the provision of guaranteed nuclear fuel supplies
- Intensify efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a fissile material cut-off treaty
- Call for universal accession to the comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and recognize that such instruments enable the IAEA to guaranty the peaceful use of nuclear energy, thus preventing nuclear proliferation
- We encourage States Parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to seek early ratification of the amendment adopted on 8 July 2005, and we encourage those States that have not yet done so to promptly accede to the Convention on Physical Protection and Nuclear Material and to ratify its amendment
- Develop effective multilaterally negotiated measures to prevent an arms race in outer space

- Explore effective measures to prevent and combat the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related technology and materials and rockets and shoulder-fired missiles, as well as to ban their transfer to non-State actors, including by implementing effective national export controls.

68. We agree to adopt and implement international instruments to regulate the marking, tracing, illicit brokering and transfer of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition.

69. We agree to ensure the effective monitoring and enforcement of United Nations arms embargos.

70. We urge States parties to fully implement their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and we encourage those States that have not yet done so to promptly accede to the Convention. We also call upon States in a position to do so to provide greater technical assistance to mine-affected States.

71. We invite all States to take and implement confidence-building and disarmament measures, with a view to promoting and strengthening regional and international security environment.

Terrorism

72. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We welcome the Secretary-General's counter-terrorism strategy and agree to discuss it as part of the General Assembly's efforts to adopt a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy.

73. We affirm that terrorists' targeting and deliberate attacks on and killing of civilians and non-combatants cannot be justified or legitimized by any cause or grievance, and we declare that any such action intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population or to compel a Government or an international organization to carry out or to abstain from any act cannot be justified on any grounds and constitutes an act of terrorism.

74. We recognize that international cooperation to fight terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the United Nations Charter, relevant international conventions and international law. States should adhere to the principles of good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism.

75. We acknowledge the important role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism and also stress the vital contribution of regional and bilateral cooperation, particularly at the practical level of law enforcement cooperation and technical exchange.

76. We urge the international community, including the United Nations to assist States in building regional and national capacity to fight terrorism. We further invite the Secretary-General to strengthen continuously, in consultation with the General Assembly and the Security Council, the capacities of the United Nations, its relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to assist States in these endeavours.

77. We call on the Security Council to consider ways to strengthen and streamline its counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies, including by consolidating State's reporting requirements.

78. We resolve to conclude a comprehensive convention on terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

79. We support the early entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and strongly encourage States which have not yet signed and ratified it to do so, as well as to accede to the 12 other international conventions against terrorism without further delay.

Transnational crime

80. We express our grave concern at the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including smuggling and trafficking of human beings, narcotic drugs, and small arms and light weapons, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime. We reaffirm the need to work collectively to combat transnational crime.

81. We recognize that trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response. To this end, we urge all States to devise, enforce, and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons.

82. We urge all States which have not yet done so to accede to the relevant international conventions on organized crime and corruption and to implement them effectively, including by incorporating the provisions of those conventions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems.

83. We decide to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide assistance to Member States in those tasks upon request.

IV. Human rights and rule of law

84. We commit ourselves to promote and respect human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and recognize that they constitute together universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations and that no security agenda or drive for development will be successful unless they are based on respect for human dignity, and call upon all parts of the United Nations system to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

85. We commit ourselves to universal adherence to human rights as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to the full implementation of the human rights standards contained in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other pertinent human rights instruments.

Human rights

86. We resolve further to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery with the aim of ensuring effective enjoyment by all of all human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, and we commit ourselves to promote human rights education and learning.

87. We resolve to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and its field offices, to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate so as to respond to the broad range of human rights challenges facing the international community, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-building, through substantially increasing resources, within five to six years, and recruitment of highly competent staff, on a broad geographical basis and gender balance, provided under the regular budget, and we support its closer cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the Security Council.

88. We resolve to improve the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies, including through more timely reporting, improved and streamlined reporting procedures, aimed at enabling the treaty bodies to function as a unified system, and to promote the implementation of their recommendations, and we support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations activities.

89. We recognize the need for special attention to human rights of women and children and undertake to advance them in every possible way, including by bringing gender and child protection perspectives in the human rights agenda.

90. We note that the private sector and business concerns also have an important responsibility and role in the advancement of human rights in a significant way, and encourage them to contribute to that end.

Internally Displaced Persons

91. Recognize the importance of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as the basic international norm for the protection of internally displaced persons and commit ourselves to promote the implementation of those principles through national legislation and practices.

Refugee protection and assistance

92. We commit ourselves to safeguard the principle of refugee protection and to uphold our responsibility in resolving the plight of refugees, through efforts aimed at addressing the causes of displacement, bringing about the safe and sustainable return of these populations and preventing refugee movement from becoming a source of tension among States. We agree to support nations in assisting refugee populations and their host communities.

Rule of law

93. Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels, we:

- Reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to an international order based on the rule of law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States
- Support the annual treaty event and encourage any Government that has not yet done so to agree to ratify and implement all treaties relating to the protection of civilians
- Call upon States to continue their efforts to repeal laws and eradicate practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality
- Support the establishment of a rule of law assistance unit within the Secretariat to strengthen United Nations' activities to promote the rule of law and related human rights law through technical assistance and capacity-building
- Recognize the important role of the International Court of Justice in adjudicating disputes among States, call upon States that have not yet done so to consider recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court and to make greater use of the Court's advisory opinions, and agree to consider means of strengthening the Court's work, including by supporting the voluntary trust fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes

Democracy

94. We reaffirm that democracy is a universal value, implying the will of the peoples to express and decide freely their own political system, and does not belong to any country or region. We stress that Democracy implies respect for sovereignty, non interference in internal affairs of States and the right to self determination, and that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

95. We renew our commitment to support democracy at national, regional and international levels by strengthening countries' capacities to implement the principles and practices of democracy at national, regional and international levels, including by guaranteeing the political rights of women and gender balance in political representation at all levels, and resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States upon their request. We therefore welcome the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations and invite the Secretary-General to establish an advisory board to provide policy guidance and funding guidelines for consideration by the General Assembly.

96. We invite Member States to contribute to the Democracy Fund.

Impunity

97. Recognizing that justice is a vital component of the rule of law, we commit to end impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, such as crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, by cooperating with the International Criminal Court, the existing ad hoc and mixed war crimes tribunals and other mechanisms for international justice.

Responsibility to protect [civilian populations]

98. We agree that the responsibility to protect civilian populations lies first and foremost with each individual State and we accept that responsibility and agree to act in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, including under Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter to help protect civilian populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We recognize our shared responsibility to take collective action, through the Security Council and, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant regional arrangements, under Chapter VII of the Charter, should peaceful means appear insufficient.

99. We support the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan to Prevent Genocide and the work of the Secretariat to this end.

100. We stress the need to continue consideration within the sixtieth session of the General Assembly of the concept of the responsibility to protect.

Human security

101. We stress the right of people to live in freedom and dignity. We recognize that human security is a guiding principle of the vital need to protect civilian populations from the insecurities generated by current threats and challenges affecting people's lives. We therefore commit to promote human security as a means to empower people and address effectively those insecurities.

Culture of peace and initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations

102. Recognizing the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly and the value of different initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations, we commit to take action to promote a culture of peace and dialogue at the national level, as well as at the regional and international levels, and request the Secretary-General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms and to follow-up on those initiatives.

V. Strengthening the United Nations

103. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the United Nations with a view to enhancing its authority and efficiency as well as its capacity to address effectively the full range of the challenges of our time. We are determined to reinvigorate the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations and to adapt them to the needs of the twenty-first century.

104. We stress that, in order to efficiently perform their respective mandates as provided under the Charter, all United Nations bodies should not duplicate their work with other bodies but should rather develop good cooperation and coordination in the common endeavour of building a more effective United Nations.

105. We emphasize the need to provide the United Nations with sufficient and predictable resources with a view to enabling it to carry out its mandate in the fast changing and complex and challenging world.

106. We emphasize the importance of establishing real, effective and efficient mechanisms for responsibility and accountability in the Secretariat.

General Assembly

107. We reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking, decision-making and representative organ of the United Nations as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of the codification and coherence of international law.

108. We welcome the measures adopted by the General Assembly with a view to strengthening its role and authority and enabling the President of the General Assembly to play a leadership role and, to that end, we call for their full and speedy implementation.

109. We call for the creation of a constructive relationship between the General Assembly and the other principal organs to ensure better coordination on topical issues that require coordinated action by the United Nations.

110. We stress the need to demonstrate the political will to effectively implement the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

Security Council

111. We reaffirm that Member States have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided by the Charter.

112. We support comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make it more broadly representative, more efficient and transparent so as to enhance the legitimacy of its decisions and its effectiveness.

113. We recommend that the Security Council adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Security Council in its preparatory work, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work.

Economic and Social Council

114. We reaffirm the role the Charter and General Assembly have vested in ECOSOC and recognize the need for a more effective ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review and policy dialogue, for economic and social development and implementing the international development goals agreed at major summits and conferences. To achieve these objectives, the ECOSOC should perform the following functions:

- Promote global dialogue and partnership on global policies and trends in the economic, social, environmental and humanitarian fields. For this purpose, the ECOSOC will serve as a quality platform for high level engagement of Member States, international institutions, private sector and civil society, for discussions on emerging global trends, policies and action as well as develop its ability to respond better and more rapidly to developments in the international economic, environmental and social fields
- Monitor and report on developing and developed countries' progress and compliance toward reaching the MDGs
- Strengthen its role to promote implementation of commitments and serve as a development cooperation forum by, inter alia, holding biennially a high-level Development Cooperation Forum reviewing trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing; promoting greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners; and strengthening the links between the normative and operational work of the UN

- Strengthen operational coordination by, among other activities, holding annual ministerial-level policy coordinating meetings to carry out substantive reviews of existing global policies and assessments of progress towards the implementation of the outcomes of major Conferences and Summits and internationally agreed development goals, including a pilot process of voluntary peer reviews of progress, drawing on its functional and regional commissions, as well as other international institutions; convening timely meetings in order to support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing threats to development, including humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, in order to promote an improved coordinated responses from the UN; Playing a major role in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and agencies, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities
- Focus on Peace and Development linkage. For this purpose, the ECOSOC will Strengthen its work in post-conflict activities by working with the Peace-building Commission; reinforce linkage between ECOSOC and Security Council on post conflict management, building on the experience of the advisory groups on countries emerging from conflict; maintain international attention and support as well as enhance system-wide inter-agency coordination in support of governments during the long-term reconstruction, recovery and reconciliation phase.

115. We stress that in order to fully perform the aforementioned functions, the organization of work, the agenda and reporting requirements of ECOSOC should be adapted.

Human Rights Council

116. Pursuant to our commitment to give greater priority to human rights in the work of the United Nations and to strengthen human rights machinery of the Organization, we decide to elevate the Commission on Human Rights to a standing Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly based in Geneva, pending a decision that the Assembly might take on the establishment of a main Charter body reflecting the centrality of human rights in the United Nations system.

117. We therefore decide that:

- The members of the Council shall be elected directly by the General Assembly, by a two thirds majority, due regard being specially paid to an equitable geographical distribution and to their contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights. Those elected to the Council should undertake to abide by the highest standards in their respect, protection and promotion of human rights. The size of the Council should be relatively comparable to that of the Commission on Human Rights.
- The Council shall discuss any matters or situations related to the promotion and protection of human rights and make recommendations thereon to the Member States of the United Nations and provide policy recommendations to the United Nations system through the General Assembly

- The Council shall fulfill its responsibility on the basis of the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and must be treated in a fair and equal manner
- The Council shall provide assistance to Member States through programmes of advisory services, technical cooperation and capacity-building in order to enhance their own abilities to implement human rights commitments, including international norms and standards. It shall also promote effective coordination and the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system. It shall also work in close cooperation with regional organizations in the field of human rights
- The Council shall have the ability to periodically review the fulfillment of all human rights obligations of all Member States [through a peer review mechanism]
- The arrangements made by the Economic and Social Council for consultations with non-governmental organizations under Article 71 of the Charter shall apply to the Human Rights Council
- The Human Rights Council shall preserve the strengths of the Commission on Human Rights, including the system of special procedures

118. We mandate the General Assembly to elaborate further in order to adopt during its sixtieth session the modalities, functions, procedures and working methods of the proposed Human Rights Council as well transitional arrangements from the Commission to the Council.

Secretariat

119. Recognizing that a capable and effective Secretariat is indispensable to the work of the United Nations in a rapidly changing world, we urge the Secretary-General to ensure the highest standards of efficiency, competence, integrity as well as ethical behaviour, transparency and accountability of the Secretariat, with due regard paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide and equitable geographical basis as possible, in particular in the senior and policy-making levels; and commend the Secretary-General's efforts to further enhance the effective management of the United Nations and for his commitment to modernize the United Nations, in particular the Headquarters.

Management reform

120. We welcome the reforms initiated by the Secretary-General, including new senior management committees and actions to strengthen oversight and accountability, reinforce ethical conduct, enhance transparency and improve management performance, and invite him to report to the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing all such measures.

121. We recognize the role of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, encourage him to exercise his responsibilities in accordance with the principles of the Charter, and pledge to assist him to do so.

122. We commit to ensure that the Secretary-General has sufficient authority and flexibility to carry out his managerial responsibility and leadership; we support granting broad authority to the Secretary-General to redeploy posts and resources from lower to higher priority areas, under relevant rules and regulations established by the General Assembly, and invite him to report to the General Assembly each year on outcomes.

123. We invite the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly an overview of all mandates older than five years with an indication of resources which could be shifted to other priorities, in accordance with rules and regulations on programme planning, in order to strengthen and up-date the programme of work of the Organization. We pledge our governments to act expeditiously on such recommendations.

124. We decide that internal oversight shall be strengthened by focusing the expertise and resources of the OIOS on audit and investigations, and by increasing the capacity of the Office to carry out these functions. We invite the Secretary-General to consolidate management consulting and evaluation functions in the Department of Management, and request him to use the capacity thereby created to increase productivity throughout the Secretariat by modernising working methods and streamlining systems and processes.

125. We emphasize the need to build a culture of accountability and integrity in the Organization and resolve to strengthen oversight by ensuring the independence of the OIOS through the creation of an Independent Audit Advisory Committee. This Committee would have the authority to make recommendations through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly on the resource requirements for OIOS. It would also be responsible for assessing the efforts of OIOS and the Board of Audit to strengthen the Organization's internal controls and identifying possible gaps in UN oversight coverage.

126. We agree that OIOS should provide internal oversight services for small UN agencies with insufficient current oversight capacity.

127. We emphasize that, in order to facilitate management, the Secretary-General should conduct and submit to the General Assembly for early action a full review of the budgetary and human-resources rules under which the Organization operates, with a view to modernising and streamlining them and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the UN Secretariat.

129. We request the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive proposal on the framework for a one-time staff buy-out to modernize and improve personnel structure and quality, including an indication of costs involved and mechanisms to ensure that it achieves its intended purpose, and to submit it to the General Assembly for its decision at the sixtieth session.

130. We emphasize that ongoing management reform in the UN should make full use of information and communication technologies, helping to give greater efficiency in the use of resources and enhancing organizational capability throughout the UN system.

131. We welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to ensure ethical conduct, more extensive financial disclosure for UN officials and enhanced protection for whistleblowers, and propose the creation of an independent Ethics Office to provide the necessary capacity and advice on all ethics-related matters.

132. We insist on the highest standards of behaviour for all UN personnel and welcome the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy of sexual exploitation and abuse in all UN activities. We commit to ensure that there will be no impunity for those who have committed crimes, and will undertake to institute appropriate disciplinary action in cases where an individual has been found to have committed wrongdoing.

133. We request the Secretary-General to prepare an implementation plan for all of the above-mentioned reforms, in concert with an external, expert team and to submit it to a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in the first quarter of 2006.

134. In order to strengthen the General Assembly's ability to ensure effective, timely, and strategic-level oversight of the Secretariat, we request the President of the General Assembly to organize and utilize the General Committee of the General Assembly to serve as an agile, ambassadorial-level interface with the senior management of the Secretariat that can recommend any necessary corrective actions on management and oversight to the General Assembly.

135. We welcome the commitment of the Secretary-General to secure a just gender balance in the staffing of the Organization. We encourage the Secretary-General and all decision-making bodies to take further steps in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies and decisions of the Organization.

136. We strongly condemn all attacks against the safety and security of the personnel engaged in all United Nations activities. We urge states to consider becoming party to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and to conclude negotiations on a protocol expanding the scope of legal protection during the 60th session of the General Assembly.

System-wide coherence

137. We recognize that the United Nations brings together a unique wealth of expertise and resources on global issues. We commend the extensive experience and expertise of the various development-related organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System in their diverse and complementary fields of activity, and their important contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the other development objectives established by various United Nations conferences.

138. We agree to ensure stronger system-wide coherence by implementing the following measures at the policy, operational and humanitarian as well as international environmental governance, levels:

Policy

- Strengthening linkages between the normative work of the United Nations system and its operational activities
- Coordinating our representation on the governing boards of the various development and humanitarian agencies so as to ensure that they pursue a coherent policy in assigning mandates and allocating resources throughout the system
- Ensuring that human rights are taken into account in decision-making throughout the United Nations
- Committing to pledge funding in a more predictable manner

Operational and humanitarian system

- Committing to implementing current reforms aimed at more unified, better performing country presence with single leader and common management, programming and monitoring framework
- Inviting the Secretary-General to launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of UN operational activities so they can make an even more effective contribution to the achievement of the MDGs
- Committing ourselves to upholding and respecting humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality and ensuring that humanitarian actors have safe and unimpeded access to vulnerable populations
- Facilitating more rapid humanitarian responses by improving the timeliness of humanitarian funding, in part by contributing to a revised Central Emergency Revolving Fund and, accordingly, by inviting Member States to contribute to the Fund
- Supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen inter-agency and country-level responses to the needs of internally displaced persons
- Putting in place standby arrangements for personnel and equipment to ensure the capacity to respond immediately to major disasters and other emergencies

- Strengthening Headquarters and field coordination structures and the leadership role of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and promoting monitoring response and accountability in close collaboration with governments.

International environmental governance

- Strengthening environmental standard-setting, scientific discussion and monitoring and treaty compliance by building on existing institutions, as well as the treaty bodies and specialized agencies
- Integrating environmental activities at the operational level in the broader sustainable development framework
- Recognizing the need for a more coherent institutional framework of international environmental governance, with better coordination and monitoring, and considering the possibility of a more integrated structure as proposed by the Secretary-General, in particular for environmental standard setting, scientific discussion, environment monitoring and assessment and providing broad policy advice and guidance that is built on existing institutions.

Regional organizations

139. We support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter as well as in the areas of economic, social and human rights, and therefore resolve to:

- Expand consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations through formalized agreements between the respective secretariats, the regularized involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council and the participation of relevant regional organizations in the Peacebuilding Commission
- Ensure that regional organizations that have a capacity for conflict prevention or peacekeeping consider the option of placing such capacities in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System
- Strengthen cooperation in the areas of economic, social and human rights
- Request the General Assembly, on an exceptional basis, to finance regional operations authorized by the Security Council with assessed contributions.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

140. Recognizing the important role played by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in international affairs, we call for closer cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization with a view to furthering the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring the effective implementation of United Nations reform.

Participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector

141. We welcome the positive contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the promotion and implementation of development, security and human rights programmes, and stress the importance of their continued engagement with Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations in these key areas, and encourage responsible business practices such as those promoted by the Global Compact initiatives in order to ensure private sector's contributions to the MDGs.

142. We also welcome the dialogue between these organizations and Member States as reflected by the first informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

Charter of the United Nations

143. Considering that the Trusteeship Council no longer meets and that its remaining functions are carried out by other bodies of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, we agree to delete Chapter XIII of the Charter and references to the Council in Chapter XII.

144. We agree to eliminate references to "enemy States" in Articles 53, 77 and 107 of the Charter.

145. We request the Security Council to consider the composition, mandate and working methods of the Military Staff Committee and to submit a recommendation for further action to the General Assembly.