



UNITED NATIONS



Translating commitments into action

2006

Sergei Ordzhonikidze
Director-General

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA



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Translating commitments into action

The 2005 World Summit opened the door to further action in a number of areas, including peace and collective security, poverty reduction, human rights, democracy promotion, genocide prevention and management reform. As noted by the Secretary-General, the Summit Outcome imposed a responsibility on each of us individually and on all of us collectively. The international community was faced with the challenge of implementing what was agreed upon. The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) has made a point of engaging fully in efforts to achieve this common objective.

The commitments made during the 2005 World Summit did not necessarily signify a new beginning, but rather an opportunity to reinforce the accomplishments of previous years. As the United Nations approaches another important juncture, with the change at the helm of the Secretariat, 2007 shall be a crucial year for building on the legacy of the last decade of leadership, as well as laying the groundwork for the implementation of the current round of reform for years to come. In this regard, UNOG is working in a determined manner to implement the decisions and global efforts of the United Nations.

The particular strengths of Geneva – especially in the protection and promotion of human rights, disarmament, provision of humanitarian assistance, advancement of social and economic development among others – provide a valuable framework in which to engage in a constructive dialogue, which calls for the contribution of all actors. As a centre for multilateral diplomacy, UNOG has continued to draw on the expertise and experience of its partners with the aim of contributing towards the overall efforts of the United Nations, first and foremost, for the realization of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

Over the past year, building on its substantial experience in creating partnerships, UNOG continued to work closely with Member States, regional organizations, Swiss and European research and academic communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the entire United Nations family with a view to achieving the objectives agreed to by the international community in the areas of development, peace, human rights and management reform.

Throughout 2006, UNOG continued to be a centre for international dialogue. UNOG provides fundamental infrastructure for multilateral debate and decision-making through the planning, coordination and servicing of meetings. Modernizing and streamlining the use of resources, contributing to system-wide coherence, as well as optimizing the skills and knowledge of staff are ongoing priorities for UNOG in implementing the goals of the United Nations.

The aim of this annual report is to provide an overview of the activities of UNOG during 2006. UNOG continues to be fully committed to achieving, in collaboration with its partners, the global objectives of the international community, including the successful implementation of the World Summit Outcome.



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



UNOG - a centre for multilateral diplomacy

No State alone can effectively respond to the threats and challenges of our globalized world. Differences, disagreements and divisions can only be overcome through inclusive dialogue. Robust and flexible multilateral processes are therefore needed to enable the formulation of collective strategies and to put in place mechanisms for implementation. As part of their multilateral efforts to address shared threats and challenges, Heads of State and Government, cabinet ministers and other high-level political representatives come to the United Nations grounds in Geneva to participate in deliberations of intergovernmental bodies and to exchange views. As the Secretary-General's representative, the Director-General met with many of the visiting dignitaries, as well as with permanent representatives in Geneva, to promote political initiatives, as part of the effort to contribute to a better understanding of the process of realization of the objectives of the 2005 World Summit, including United Nations reform. Geneva continues to be not just a prominent conference centre, but also a true global centre for multilateral diplomacy.

Supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General

UNOG provided full support to the five visits to Geneva and Switzerland of the Secretary-General from January 2006 to November 2006, which took place as follows: (i) from 23 to 29 January 2006, to participate in the World Economic Forum in Davos; (ii) from 26 to 27 February 2006, for the Tripartite Summit on the Mediation on the Territorial Dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, with the participation of the Presidents of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon; (iii) from 18 to 25 June 2006, for the opening of the new

Human Rights Council in Geneva; (iv) from 25 to 28 August 2006, as part of the Secretary-General's trip to the Middle East; (v) from 17 to 21 November 2006 to address the opening session of the Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and for other meetings. The Director-General supported the Secretary-General, as his representative, in Geneva and Switzerland, as well as in events around the world, namely, the inauguration of the President of Kazakhstan, N. A. Nazerbaev [Astana, 11 January 2006], the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership Summit [Bucharest, 4 to 6 June 2006] and the Second Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions [Astana, 12 to 14 September 2006].

Servicing the diplomatic community in Geneva

Throughout the year, UNOG continued to provide extensive assistance to the diplomatic community, United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations in Geneva and continued to collaborate with the host country. In this regard, UNOG contributes to enhancing international cooperation and understanding within the diplomatic community in Geneva, as well as furthering the smooth functioning of all aspects of multilateral diplomacy. In 2006, the total number of permanent missions accredited to UNOG reached 161 with the latest additions, since January 2006, of the Permanent Missions of Swaziland, Maldives and Djibouti. The total number of permanent observer missions and permanent observer offices has reached 2 and 8 respectively.

The Director-General continued his interaction with the Diplomatic Committee, which provides an important platform for consultation and discussion on all issues that have an impact on the work of the international community in Geneva. During 2006, under the chairmanship of the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, the Diplomatic Committee continued its efforts to find durable solutions to the various practical concerns of the diplomatic community in Geneva, in close collaboration with both UNOG and the host country.

UNOG has continued to facilitate the participation of high-level visitors – Heads of State and Government, Ministers for Foreign Affairs – in meetings of the Human Rights Council and of the Conference on Disarmament.

High-level visits to UNOG – 2006

Personalities	Number of visits
Secretary-General of the United Nations	5
Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Heads of State	10
Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers	9
Ministers for Foreign Affairs	26
Other Ministers and Secretaries of State	122
Deputy Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials	4
Other dignitaries	122
Total 2006	298

Addressing disarmament and non-proliferation

As the home of the Conference on Disarmament – the key multilateral disarmament negotiating body – UNOG continues to be an important venue for international disarmament diplomacy. It also hosts a large number of disarmament-related conferences, notably in 2006, the Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer or Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention), the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and the Sixth Review Conference of the States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), as well as the Preparatory Meetings associated with those Review Conferences.

The Director-General of UNOG, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Conference, is responsible for ensuring a stable political environment and overseeing the operational support and assistance provided to the Conference. The Director-General is closely involved in the numerous other disarmament activities that take place in the Palais des

Nations organized by the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and by the active NGO community in Geneva.

For almost a decade the Conference on Disarmament has suffered from an absence of agreement on a programme of work, effectively preventing it from actively engaging in negotiations on such important issues as the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament including a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (negative security assurances), new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, radiological weapons and a comprehensive programme of disarmament and transparency in armaments.

Efforts to break this impasse intensified at the outset of 2006 culminating in agreement by the Conference on Disarmament, to pursue an approach to its work based on a schedule of activities developed by the six Presidents for the year. This approach involved focused structured debates on all items on its agenda with participation by experts from the capitals of Member States and greater use of the appointment of friends of the President to explore issues relating to the structure and operation of the Conference. An important milestone in this year's deliberations has been the submission by the United States of America on 18 May 2006 of a draft mandate for the Conference on Disarmament to start forthwith the negotiation of an FMCT, together with a draft treaty text. The intensification of the activities in the Conference as well as the significant contributions made during the 2006 session to promote substantive discussions on items on its agenda have been duly reflected in the relevant resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. It remains to be seen, however, whether these developments will result in 2007 in an agreement to start negotiations of an FMCT in parallel with an intensification of engagement on other issues such as PAROS, nuclear disarmament and negative security assurances.

The failure of countries attending the 2005 World Summit to find common ground to address problems of disarmament and non-proliferation

and the absence of an agreed outcome to the Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2005, remain critical factors in tackling these issues. Yet, disarmament and non-proliferation continue to be indispensable to helping create a security environment favourable to ensuring human development, as called for by the core ideals of the United Nations. This was also a theme featured in the Secretary-General's address to the Conference on Disarmament on 21 June 2006 and in the address of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea on 20 June 2006.

In 2006, the States parties to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention held their seventh annual meeting. The Convention has experienced unparalleled accomplishments in reducing the stocks and use of anti-personnel landmines, as well as in supporting the victims of these inhumane weapons. With deadlines approaching for the implementation of a central obligation under this treaty (art. 5), namely the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas, the attention of States parties has turned to the practicalities of assisting affected States fulfil their obligations under this provision.

Intensive efforts in Geneva within the CCW Group of Governmental Experts resulted in the adoption, at the 2003 meeting of States parties, of a new international legally binding instrument – the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, annexed to the Convention. This new Protocol, which is aimed at reducing the humanitarian hazard posed to civilians by unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, entered into force on 12 November 2006. This significant event was marked during the Third Review Conference of CCW, which met in Geneva from 6 to 17 November 2006. Contemporaneously, the States parties to the CCW amended Protocol II, dealing with the threat posed by landmines, booby-traps and other devices, met to discuss ways and means of strengthening the implementation of the Protocol and its universalization. The CCW Review Conference itself dealt with matters of its universalization, the establishment of a sponsorship programme, compliance, Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines, implementation of existing principles of international humanitarian law and further possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including sub-munitions, and the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV). The Review Conference was preceded by three

meetings of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts, which, in effect, were preparatory meetings of the States parties for the Review Conference.

The States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention held their sixth review conference from 20 November to 8 December 2006. The meeting focused its attention on its work programme for the new five-year review period, increasing its universalization, facilitating its implementation and deepening its institutional support.

Strengthening the rule of law

One of the founding principles of the United Nations was to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the commitments arising from treaties and other international law can be maintained. The 2005 World Summit made important progress in the area of the “responsibility to protect”. For the first time the entire United Nations membership accepted clearly its collective responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in cases where their own Governments are unwilling or unable to do so. UNOG continues to support the mandate of the Secretary-General in strengthening the rule of law. This includes drawing attention to this critical issue through its work with regional organizations, as well as with research and academic communities in Geneva. In doing so, UNOG supports and contributes to the work of the International Law Commission (ILC), which, in keeping with the tradition of previous years, held its annual sessions in May/June and July/August at the Palais des Nations. ILC analysed fundamental topics of international law such as the responsibility of international organizations, international liability of acts not prohibited by international law, shared natural resources, fragmentation of international law, effects of armed conflict on treaties, reservations to treaties, diplomatic protection and unilateral acts of States.

In close cooperation with ILC, UNOG organized and directed the forty-second International Law Seminar, which took place in July 2006. During the programme, the 25 carefully selected young diplomats and academics from all over the world had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of current challenges to international public law by attending lectures, participating in

working groups, exchanging views on different agenda items of the seminar and observing the Commission's deliberations. In addition to an introduction to the work of ILC, the three-week seminar offered insights into the work of some Geneva-based international organizations. The seminar is also intended to further the dialogue between different legal systems and cultures. The Chairman of ILC presided over the closing ceremony of the Seminar.



Creating and strengthening partnerships

The mandate and objectives of the United Nations call for the contribution of all actors, consisting of Member States, the greater United Nations family and other international organizations, civil society including NGOs and the private sector. Addressing the complex global threats and challenges of our times requires the interaction of a multitude of stakeholders in order to ensure innovative and effective solutions. In 2006, UNOG strengthened its coordination within the United Nations family in Geneva and built on its partnerships with external partners to achieve the objectives of the international community.

Sustaining host country relations

UNOG has enhanced its partnership and built on its excellent working relations with host country authorities at federal, cantonal and municipal levels. It continued its regular exchanges and close collaboration with these authorities in all areas, including ensuring the successful functioning of numerous international conferences, both in and out of the Palais des Nations. It was possible to find solutions to the multifaceted concerns of the diplomatic community in Geneva, as well as in the areas of security, diplomatic privileges and immunities since Switzerland continues to be actively engaged in issues that are on the United Nations agenda.

On 29 April 2006, the Director-General took part in a round table discussion on the theme, "The image of Switzerland in the world" organized by the Swiss Forum for International Affairs, with the participation of amongst others Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. In June 2006, UNOG took part in an event

organized by the host country in an effort to bring together, and enhance relations between political representatives of the cantons of Geneva and Vaud, neighbouring France and representatives of the international community in Geneva. Finally, at the end of September, the Director-General greeted the Geneva economic and cultural week in Moscow, which was mandated by the Canton of Geneva's Department of Economy and Health and organized by the Joint Chambers of Commerce Switzerland-Russia.

Ensuring system-wide coherence

As recognized by international leaders at the 2005 World Summit, the United Nations brings together a unique wealth of expertise and resources on global issues. To enable the experience and know-how of the wider United Nations system to be channelled effectively towards achieving the objectives determined by Member States, Heads of State and Government on this occasion expressed their support for stronger system-wide coherence by, inter alia, strengthening the linkages between the normative work of the United Nations and its operational activities. In this context, UNOG engages with other Secretariat entities and the wider United Nations family to contribute towards harmonized and consistent efforts in support of the aims of the Organization. In addition, the Director-General has continued his regular exchanges with heads of United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to discuss important issues of current concern.

Information-sharing, joint planning and coordination are critical to enabling the United Nations and the United Nations family to achieve common aims, including the realization of the 2005 World Summit outcomes. The Director-General is a member of the Senior Management Group, a committee of senior United Nations managers that serves as the Secretary-General's cabinet and central policy planning body of the Organization. He also sits on the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), an important forum for United Nations departments and programmes to discuss specific issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and plan more coherent approaches in this area. Taking part in the regular discussions of these key bodies for policy development, strategic planning and management, the

Director-General contributes to the senior level management efforts to ensure coherence and direction in the work of the Organization. UNOG also participates in working-level exchanges within the framework of ECPS.

Throughout 2006, UNOG strengthened collaboration with United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, through meetings and regular exchanges of information, including in support of the Secretary-General's reform initiatives. UNOG continues to participate in meetings of the governing bodies, executive boards and other conferences of the United Nations system. The Director-General regularly opens and participates in the regular meetings of the governing bodies of United Nations specialized agencies based in Geneva. In 2006, UNOG participated, among others, in the fifty-ninth World Health Assembly which agreed to start implementing immediately the parts of the International Health Regulations that would help prevent, detect and respond to a potential pandemic of human influenza; the World Health Assembly Special Session, which was held to appoint the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO); the annual session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization, which addressed the economic and social impact of global climatic change; the forty-first series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization, which reviewed the implementation of the copyright legislation in the audio-visual sector; the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which evaluated the progress reports on the work of the Standing Committee on International Protection; and the ninety-fourth session of the International Labour Conference, which adopted new standards and measures addressing health and safety issues under the decent work agenda approved in 2005. UNOG was also present at the World Trade Organization working party accession meetings of Member States ranging from Albania to Zimbabwe and the General Council Doha Round discussions. The Director-General also participated in and opened the Universal Postal Union Strategy Conference, which was held in Dubai from 14 to 16 November 2006.

UNOG also liaises with various inter-agency bodies, as well as with other intergovernmental organizations based in Geneva, to facilitate inter-agency

cooperation and promote the objectives of the United Nations. Moreover, in 2006, UNOG facilitated in different ways, including political and organizational, the transition from the concluding session of the Commission on Human Rights to the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council, the creation of which was one of the main achievements of the 2005 World Summit.

Working with regional and other intergovernmental organizations

The various partnerships between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations continue to deepen, and the Secretary-General has emphasized the importance of a global security system that builds on the complementary efforts of these different stakeholders. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders supported a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as envisaged under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and resolved to expand collaboration.

Reflecting the importance that the Security Council attaches to cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, the Council regularly meets in open debates on the issue. On 20 September 2006, the Council held its fourth meeting of this kind on the subject, at which the Director-General was an observer. On this occasion, the Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/39), commending the efforts of the Secretary-General in strengthening partnerships with regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations on peace and security, thereby contributing to the realization of the recommendations of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. The Council also welcomed the intent of many regional and subregional organizations to be closely associated with the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and committed to facilitating their participation, as relevant, in the country-specific activities of the Commission. The open debate sent a clear message on the need to develop a closer and more effective partnership with regional organizations.

In support of this policy of closer engagement, the Secretary-General hosts annual high-level meetings with heads of regional and other intergovernmental organizations that focus on practical cooperation on key issues before the

international community. In 2005, this process was reinforced through the introduction of a standing committee to provide overall guidance in the gradual establishment of a more structured relationship between United Nations and regional organizations. UNOG participates, as an observer, in meetings of this new mechanism.

On 22 September 2006, the Director-General contributed to the seventh High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations on the theme of “Challenges and Opportunities in Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations”. The meeting took place after the Security Council’s open debate on the topic on 20 September 2006 and followed on from these discussions in the Council. At the meeting, leaders of more than 20 regional and other intergovernmental organizations exchanged views on how regional and other intergovernmental organizations can help solve current and long-standing regional crises, discussed the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report pursuant to Security Council resolution 1631 (2005) entitled “A regional-global security partnership: challenges and opportunities” (A/61/204-S/2006/590), and shared concrete proposals for future work, including with respect to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Initiative for Africa. During the exchanges, delegates noted that coordination could be made more effective by having clear guidelines, including acknowledging, for example, the primacy of the Security Council in peace and security, while also having future meetings focused on selected conflict situations, with a balanced approach across all regions.

In line with the Secretary-General’s vision in this area, the Director-General maintains relations with regional organizations and arrangements, including through the “Tripartite-Plus” process, a framework for annual consultations between the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, with the participation of European regional and subregional partner organizations. Initiated in 1993 and chaired in turn by the three founding members, the “Tripartite-Plus” is a valuable forum for sharing information and improving collaboration.

On 5 July 2006, the Director-General hosted this year’s high-level exchanges in the “Tripartite-Plus” format on the theme of “Peacebuilding

from a European regional perspective: preventing the recurrence of conflict". In addition to the three original partners, the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Arab States, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and others took part. A wide range of representatives from the United Nations – including Secretariat departments and offices, field presences in the wider Europe, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies took part.

Participants focused on recommendations that could enhance their own activities and could be helpful to the international community as it embarked on its new approach to post-conflict peacebuilding. In this context, they welcomed the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission. The participating organizations stressed the fundamentally political character of peacebuilding and highlighted that an effective peacebuilding strategy must address the country-specific root causes of conflict. All representatives emphasized the importance of periodic information sharing and the sharing of experiences with regards to lessons learned and best practices.

Participants also reviewed and approved the outcome of an expert-level meeting on the adjacent theme of "Intercommunity relations in post-conflict environments: learning to live together", which preceded the high-level gathering and examined experiences and lessons learned in the field, as well as through contacts at the headquarters level. The meeting identified confidence-building measures, such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, reform of the judiciary, institution-building, and implementation of the rule of law as pivotal for the promotion of intercommunity dialogue in broken societies.

Implementing one of the decisions of the "Tripartite-Plus" meeting, the Director-General presented the findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General's seventh High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations on 22 September 2006 held at Headquarters. The conclusions, which were issued in a joint communiqué, have also been transmitted to the Peacebuilding Commission as a practical contribution to support its work.

Collaborating with research and academic communities in support of the 2005 World Summit Outcome

As the tasks entrusted to the United Nations evolve, its policies and practices must be constantly reviewed and fine-tuned. The United Nations must tap into and utilize all available knowledge to elaborate effective strategies in a rapidly changing world. Active engagement with research institutions that compile policy-oriented analysis in areas of concern to the United Nations is therefore critical to the materialization of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. In this context, UNOG liaises with research and academic institutions as part of its broader partnership-building efforts. UNOG facilitates collaborative activities that allow for frank exchanges of experiences and views between policymakers and external experts, with a focus on lessons learned and formulation of proposals for application in the work of the Organization.

Through a wide network of research institutes, policy planning units and similar bodies, the United Nations system generates a large volume of high-quality analysis and research related to the challenges before the Organization. Together with the United Nations University, UNOG hosts the Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue (GRPD), which provides a platform for engagement among research entities within the system, policy planners and external experts to forge a firmer and more direct link between research and policy. GRPD enables targeted discussions, focused on applied research, to determine a coherent, comprehensive and forward-looking research agenda and to identify priorities, avoiding duplication and overlap. Preparations are currently under way for the sixth GRPD. By bringing together those who produce research and those who apply it in policy, GRPD contributes to ensuring that the United Nations receives the full benefit of the work carried out by its research institutes and that the work of external experts is integrated.

A significant result of the 2005 World Summit was the establishment of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. At the invitation of the Secretary-General, the Director-General participated, on 23 June 2006, in the inaugural meeting of the Organizational Committee of the Commission, which brought together the 31 members of the Committee, Member States and key international stakeholders working on peacebuilding to reflect on how the new entity will contribute to more effective international support

provided to countries emerging from conflict. Later in the year, the Director-General took part in the Peacebuilding Commission's first ever country-specific meeting, on Sierra Leone, which was held on 12 October 2006. The Commission invited the Government of Sierra Leone to move forward, with support from the United Nations system and other partners on peacebuilding issues. The Commission agreed to devote time to informal working meetings to address the priorities identified, including consolidation of democracy and of good governance, justice and security sector reform, social and youth empowerment and employment and capacity-building.

In support of the efforts of the newly established Peacebuilding Commission and of the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNOG took part in a project, launched in January 2006 by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy with the financial support of the Swiss Government, and organized in association with the Quaker United Nations Office, the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, and other partners. A main objective was to explore how the Geneva-based stakeholders may add value to the work of the Commission. A series of meetings with representatives of Member States, civil society and experts were organized to assess how the international organizations and NGOs in Geneva may best feed into the deliberations of the Commission, and the results of the project were presented at the International Security Forum in Zurich, Switzerland, which took place from 26 to 28 October 2006.

Building on the outcomes of this project, the Director-General has launched an initiative under the title "Our Common Peacebuilding Challenge: the Contribution of International Geneva" to bring together representatives of Governments, international organizations, civil society and private business for an ongoing dialogue on different dimensions of post-conflict peacebuilding. UNOG provides an organizational umbrella for the process, in collaboration with partners from different sectors and regions. The aim is to enable the collective experience and expertise of the wide range of actors in Geneva and beyond to provide input into the international community's peacebuilding efforts. One of the objectives is to serve as an intellectual resource to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, providing an additional avenue for strengthening cooperation to tackle the peacebuilding challenge.

In collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), UNOG organizes annual seminars on different aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding and security sector reform. The fourth in the series, co-chaired by the Director-General and the Director of DCAF, took place on 31 October 2006 under the theme of “Security Sector Reform in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: a Closer Partnership Between the United Nations and Regional Organizations”. Prominent speakers, from within and outside the United Nations, analysed current approaches to security sector reform in post-conflict peacebuilding situations and explored the prospects for enhanced interaction between the United Nations and regional partners in this context. The presentations were followed by an informal exchange with the invited audience of high-level representatives of the diplomatic community in Geneva, Geneva-based United Nations entities, NGOs and think tanks. As in previous years, the presentations will be published in an edited volume for broad dissemination to help encourage continued discussion and to raise awareness of the complexities of and opportunities for post-conflict peacebuilding.

In the framework of the ongoing engagement of UNOG with research entities, the Director-General took part in and addressed the Annual Security Conference, on 30 May 2006, of the Security and Defence Agenda, a Brussels-based forum for discussion of European and transatlantic security and defence policies among representatives of international organizations, industry, academia, political dignitaries and the press. The annual conference reflected on the theme of “Protecting Europe: Policies for enhancing security in the European Union”.

The Director-General is an ex officio member of the Foundation Board of the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN), an international research network founded by the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute of International Studies and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies. GIAN funds practical research and training in five areas of priority, namely sustainable development; social equity; globalization and international commerce; intercultural relations and dialogue; and humanitarian law and human rights. In this function, the Director-General helps to advance cooperative research initiatives principally between academic institutions and international organizations – both governmental and non-governmental – that

may be applied in the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Engaging with civil society

World leaders, at the 2005 World Summit, welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including NGOs, and stressed the importance of their continued engagement with Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations. In this spirit, a large number of national and international NGOs collaborate with the United Nations in a framework of partnership as desired by Member States. One of the modalities for engagement is consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, governed by Council resolution 1996/31 entitled “Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations”.

In accordance with the resolution, UNOG accredits NGOs having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and contributes – by providing information, advice and organizing meetings – to ensuring that NGOs can exercise their consultative status efficiently. UNOG also briefs, upon request, the diplomatic community, universities, the private sector and the public concerning the partnership between the United Nations and NGOs. UNOG promotes both the development of the partnership between the United Nations and NGOs, as well as partnerships among civil society organizations themselves. In this context, UNOG facilitates contacts between NGOs and other organizations of the United Nations, between individual NGOs and NGO networks, according to fields of interest, as well as handling requests for information on the partnership between the United Nations family and NGOs.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome document and the ongoing United Nations reform efforts were central concerns of civil society organizations in 2006. The stated commitment to reinforcement of the role of the Economic and Social Council, which opens prospects for important contributions by NGOs, and the creation of the Human Rights Council, where NGOs take part according to the practice established by the previous Commission on Human Rights, were among the principal topics of debate amongst NGOs active in Geneva.

In 2006, UNOG facilitated the participation and coordination of NGO activities during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council,

held this year in Geneva. In this connection, UNOG supported the organization of the NGO forum entitled “Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”, which met to prepare the contribution of NGOs at the high-level segment of the Council. Likewise, UNOG supported the organization of NGO meetings relating to the future of the new Human Rights Council and the modalities for NGO participation. UNOG also facilitated the organization of the “Hearings with the International Community and Civil Society regarding the United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations”, which took place at the Palais des Nations on 17 July 2006.

UNOG will continue to support and encourage civil society organizations, particularly NGOs, in their important partnership with the United Nations.

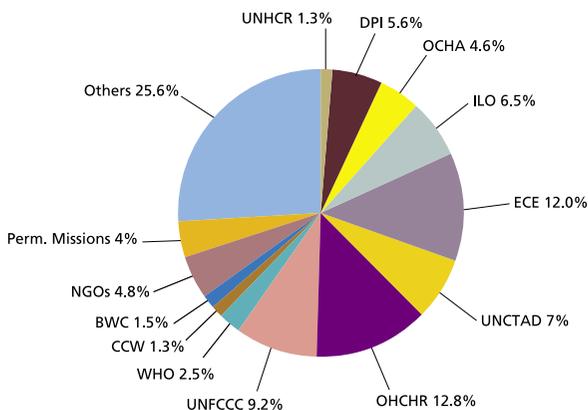


Supporting the multilateral process

UNOG continues to provide infrastructure and conference facilities for a number of international events during which delegates of all countries and nationalities negotiate on issues that concern the international community. It does this through conference planning, coordination and servicing functions required to ensure that meetings are properly scheduled and serviced. In this regard, facilitating international negotiations and conferences is a core backstage activity that contributes to achievements of the Organization in the service of peace, development and human rights.

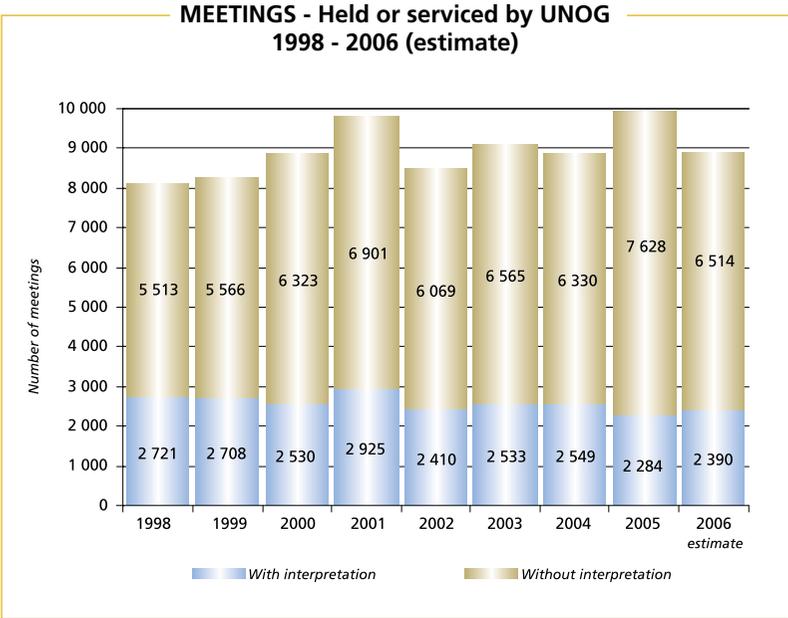
As a result of these efforts, the total number of meetings with interpretation serviced by UNOG rose from 2,284 in 2005 to 2,390 in 2006. Furthermore, the overall planning accuracy factor, i.e. the ratio of services planned against services used, is about 95 per cent at UNOG.

MEETINGS - Principal Users in 2006



8 904 meetings with and without interpretation (estimate)

Source : e-Meets



Providing optimal facilities for the multilateral process

In 2006, UNOG provided conference and documentation support to a large number of intergovernmental meetings. One of the highlights of the year was the servicing of the newly created Human Rights Council, which was inaugurated by the Secretary-General on 19 June 2006. Other meetings serviced by UNOG included the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People, the Conference on Disarmament, the Biological Weapons and the Conventional Weapons Conventions meetings, the International Law Commission, the International Labour Office General Conference, the WHO Annual Assembly, the United Nations Compensation Commission Governing Council, various meetings of the human rights treaty bodies, the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development

Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - Executive Board, the Tripartite Summit between the Secretary-General, the President of Gabon and the President of Equatorial Guinea, the meetings of the Follow-up Committee to monitor the implementation of the Greentree Agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria, the Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia Meeting and the different meetings of ECE.

UNOG continued to act as the primary interlocutor with Governments that offer to host United Nations conferences. In that role, it advises host countries on all physical and human resource requirements for the holding of such conferences. During 2006, UNOG successfully coordinated and provided services to such conferences as the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People held in Cairo (April 2006) and the session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn, Germany (May 2006). UNOG also provided its services to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, which was organized in Nairobi (November 2006). These activities continue to help reinforce links between the United Nations and its Member States in their joint efforts to find solutions to the problems confronting the Organization. UNOG also issued Guidelines on Meetings Planning and Coordination in hard copy, CD-ROM and on its website to disseminate the information related to meetings servicing as widely as possible.

In 2006, the Electronic Meeting Planning and Resource Allocation System (e-Meets), a database for the management of meetings, as mandated by the General Assembly, became fully operational and all the secretariats of meetings, as well as permanent missions and specialized agencies now submit requests for meetings and facilities electronically. More work is planned on meetings, documentation, and interpretation related systems in collaboration with other duty stations within the framework of the integrated global management of conference services.

In 2006, UNOG participated in the global information technology study of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) conducted by the Dalberg management consultants. This study

was aimed at reviewing the business processes and information technology applications of United Nations duty stations, including New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

In June 2006, the Director-General led a team to the Seventh Coordination Meeting of Conference Managers held at the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), which addressed a range of issues on integrated global management of conference services across United Nations duty stations. UNOG made a presentation on “Relations with Clients” at the meeting. UNOG will be hosting the next Coordination Meeting in 2007 in Geneva.

Facilitating understanding through multilingualism

By permitting speakers of different languages to negotiate and reach consensus in the official United Nations language of their choice, the UNOG Interpretation Service contributes in a significant manner to the substantive functioning of the Organization. Another key aspect of its work is the provision of interpretation services to special rapporteurs and holders of special procedures mandates of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as to special representatives of the Secretary-General on investigative missions in some 25 countries of the world. That contribution feeds directly into the fact-finding, reporting and decision-making processes in the field of human rights and political affairs.

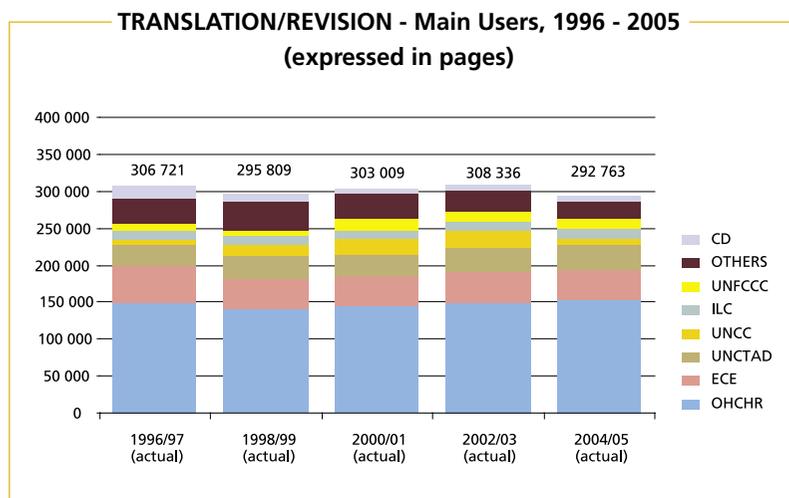
As per General Assembly resolution 59/265, section IV, paragraph 2, two language-specific sessions of informational meetings between delegations and representatives of the language services of UNOG were organized in March and October 2006 at the Palais des Nations. The aim of these meetings, conducted in all six official languages of the United Nations, is to consult with Member States on the improvement of the language services and to establish additional channels for communication on the terminology used and the quality of services rendered.

Terminology coordination among all United Nations duty stations was enhanced with the creation, in June 2006, of a Terminology Coordination

Board in order to consolidate and facilitate access to United Nations multilingual terminology resources through the Internet.

New initiatives and cooperation efforts at the inter-agency level are also being undertaken in the area of computer-assisted translation and language professionals' training within the framework of the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP), chaired by the United Nations. At the request of IAMLADP, the name of the Joint Inter-Agency Meeting on Computer Assisted Translation and Terminology has been changed and it will henceforth be referred to as: International Annual Meeting on Computer-Assisted Terminology and Translation. The UNOG Languages Service was asked to chair the working group on terminology harmonization among international organizations.

With a view to reducing costs, UNOG made significant progress in introducing electronic referencing and translation tools, as well as implementing new administrative arrangements such as off-site contracts for translators. According to such arrangements, expert translators living in various parts of the world can work from home.



Throughout the year, UNOG continued to maximize its technical expertise and its use of modern equipment to ensure the quality and prompt production of conference documents and publications for major conferences.

In line with decisions relating to the reform of DGACM and the main theme of "quality control" for the 2006 Committee on Conferences Meeting with United Nations duty stations, UNOG carried out client satisfaction surveys during some conferences held at the Palais des Nations and elsewhere. The results of these surveys, which were organized during the period 2005-2006, are positive and provide useful information for the planning and implementation of activities related to the provision of conference services at UNOG.



Raising public awareness

People around the world need to understand and appreciate the work of the United Nations if it is to be effective. As the United Nations continues its ongoing reform efforts, the task of conveying a clear message on its engagements and work remains one of the principal objectives of UNOG. In this regard, UNOG has continued its role in providing a crucial link between the United Nations and the general public, not only through heightening public awareness, but also by mobilizing support for the Organization's current reform initiatives.

UNOG has continued to develop and implement communications strategies for greater visibility and public understanding of the priority areas of work of the United Nations, especially with regard to the realization of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular the creation of the Human Rights Council and efforts to boost humanitarian response systems. UNOG has done this through concise messages to its audiences in Geneva, visitors to UNOG and to a wider audience beyond.

Connecting with the media

The link between the United Nations and the media remains as imperative today as ever and is the key to the success of any public outreach campaign. As a re-disseminator of information and news about United Nations events and activities, the media are an invaluable partner that provides for better public understanding of the Organization. Some 200 resident correspondents are accredited to UNOG on an annual basis, and several hundred on temporary assignments. Office and working spaces are also provided for journalists covering the activities of the United Nations in Geneva. The international

media are kept abreast of new developments and ongoing efforts in the global arena through biweekly press briefings chaired by UNOG and attended by spokespersons for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies.

In addition, UNOG organizes individual press conferences on a host of issues with officials and experts. A total of 148 of these targeted press conferences were organized during 2006. Among these were press conferences for the Secretary-General during two of his visits to Geneva, Mr. Mark Malloch Brown upon taking up his new position as Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, in his capacity as a member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence, and several for the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Jan Egeland, reporting on humanitarian crises from southern Lebanon to Sudan. Press conferences were also organized for Dr. David Nabarro, Senior United Nations System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, and the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, the President of Liberia, Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and the President of Timor-Leste, Mr. Xanana Gusmão. In addition, UNOG continued to arrange press encounters for the Secretary-General on his visits to Geneva.

As part of its ongoing efforts in support of United Nations-wide campaigns, UNOG provided extensive radio and television coverage to broadcasters throughout the world through United Nations Radio New York and international media entities such as the European Broadcasting Union, Reuters Television and Associated Press Television News. UNOG services also produced several features and video compilations on issues ranging from the use of communication technologies for development in India to disaster preparedness projects in Cuba. These features were distributed from New York through United Nations Television's daily satellite UNIFEED and the UN in Action series, broadcast on the CNN World Report and used by United Nations entities in their public information and general education activities. Features and video compilations on human rights and humanitarian affairs were produced and distributed through the same outlets to highlight Human Rights Day on 10 December 2006 and the annual launch of the United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal.

Reporting the events

UNOG continues to provide both breaking news and in-depth material to international print and audio-visual media covering the activities of UNOG and the United Nations as a whole. Through reporting these events accurately and in a timely manner to the media, and in effect to a global audience, UNOG maintains and generates new public interest in the work of the Organization. Throughout the year, the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) in Geneva ensured that the activities of the United Nations continued to receive wide exposure in the European press and remained a dominant issue in the eyes of the European public. The reform of the Organization dominated the headlines in major newspapers throughout the region. Moreover, United Nations reform generated some of the strongest opinions and editorial columns in the media as compared to other United Nations-related issues. Testament to this has been the impressive number and quality of press reports appearing in major media outlets that highlight the United Nations and its reform. The media have also reported extensively on the new Human Rights Council and human rights issues in general, the United Nations humanitarian activities, and, amongst others, the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

Through the efforts of UNIS, the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council in June yielded more media interest than any other event held in Geneva during 2006. The meeting at the Palais des Nations resulted in a large number of press articles as well as radio and TV reports. The opening was widely covered by media in all regions, with mainly positive articles reflecting the expectations of the new body and many emphasizing the Secretary-General's plea that members of the Council should not "squander this opportunity". The inaugural ceremony of the Council was transmitted live through Eurovision to 59 television stations and informal feedback indicated extensive coverage in news programmes throughout the world. Furthermore, the opening session was transmitted in its entirety to United Nations Radio in New York, as were indicative audio cuts in English, French and Spanish. The high-level segment of the Council was webcast and plans have been put in place for webcasting later sessions. The overall message that the creation of the Human Rights Council was a positive accomplishment resonated throughout the international media. The Council's subsequent sessions held during the year also received fair and extensive media coverage.

Chief among the news stories originating from Geneva outside the human rights realm were those reacting to the succession of humanitarian emergencies

that occurred throughout the year. The crises in the Sudanese region of Darfur and in southern Lebanon attracted the highest media attention, given the gravity of these emergencies. While much of the reporting emanated from “ground zero”, many of the reports were filed from Geneva where several donor meetings were held and where the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Jan Egeland, chaired numerous press conferences. Given the crisis in southern Lebanon and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in particular, UNOG concentrated efforts towards arranging several media opportunities for the locally based and international press corps. Over 20 press conferences alone were held throughout the course of the year on the crises in the Middle East, many of which were chaired by Mr. Egeland. The situation in the Middle East also resulted in the first two special sessions of the Human Rights Council, which generated considerable media interest.

Another issue that led to significant interest at the beginning of the year was avian flu as new cases of the virus continued to appear throughout Europe. UNOG hosted a series of press encounters with WHO officials who regularly updated members of the press on the latest developments to contain the deadly disease.

In an effort to analyse the coverage of United Nations activities in the European press, UNOG worked together with the Regional United Nations Information Centre (RUNIC) in Brussels at the beginning of the year on a media-monitoring project. The results of this project demonstrated that the activities of the Organization figure high on the European agenda in general, and that there is a genuine interest in its work among the media and the public. An initiative to strengthen collaboration among the three Department of Public Information offices in Europe referred to as the BGV network, consisting of RUNIC Brussels, UNIS Geneva and UNIS Vienna, was launched this year and a plan of action was drawn up in a meeting of the three directors in September in Vienna. Amongst the objectives of the BGV network is the use of their individual and combined strengths to promote and mobilize support for the United Nations in Europe. Common campaigns will be organized on priority issues, such as migration and human rights.

In addition, UNOG has continued to strengthen its monitoring of news around the world by producing press analysis and reviews, which are made available to senior officials and the Secretary-General on a daily basis.

Connecting with the public

Throughout the year, UNIS organized nearly 60 information programmes intended to provide a better understanding of the work of the United Nations and of its funds, programmes and specialized agencies based in Geneva. Among the themes discussed in the programmes, which are tailored for students, diplomats, civil servants and representatives from NGOs and other institutions around the world, were human rights, humanitarian affairs, disarmament, peacekeeping and the reform of the United Nations.

For the fourth year running, UNOG organized an event for the International Day of Peacekeepers, which was commemorated on 1 June 2006 to pay tribute to the bravery and dedication of peacekeepers worldwide and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the service of peace. UNOG also hosted and organized a round-table discussion for this year's observance of World Press Freedom Day, during which a link was established with the United Nations Information Centre in Pretoria, South Africa, via videoconference. To mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2006, UNOG co-organized an event with the International Movement ATD Fourth World at the Palais des Nations, which was attended by close to 200 guests including diplomats, UNOG staff and representatives of United Nations agencies, NGOs and the media. The event also brought together families living under conditions of poverty who delivered personal testimonies about their struggles. At all three events, the Director-General delivered a message from the Secretary-General, as well as personal remarks to the audience attending.

Continuing its long-standing tradition, UNOG coordinated its three-week annual Graduate Study Programme to involve young people in the work of the Organization. In 2006, 90 outstanding postgraduate students from 43 countries took part in the forty-fourth edition of the Programme under the heading "The United Nations: a time for renewal". As in previous years, the Director-General opened the programme and took questions from students on a host of issues. The discussions resulted in a comprehensive report authored by the students in which they offered a constructive critique of the Organization, and proposed recommendations.

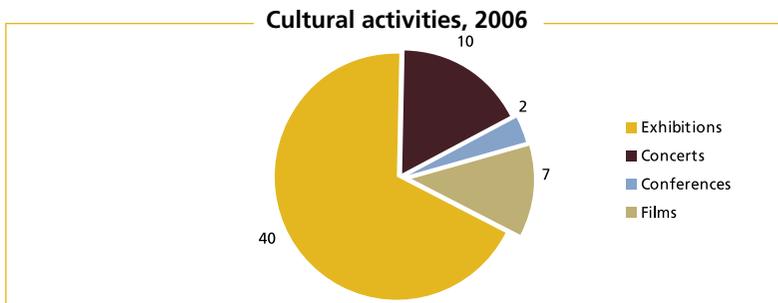
The Visitors' Service continues to serve as an important public outreach tool that allows close to 100,000 visitors each year to gain a keener sense of

the Organization's vision and values and to see first-hand the place where many of the major decisions that affect humankind are made while also learning about the work of the United Nations family in Geneva.

Promoting a culture of peace

Building on its previous commitments, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of dialogue among civilizations and called for tolerance, respect and cooperation between the various cultures, civilizations and peoples of the world through the adoption of resolution 60/4 on 1 December 2005. The UNOG Cultural Activities Programme has continued to actively promote the United Nations agenda for peace and dialogue among nations through various artistic exchanges, which provide an opportunity to highlight cultural diversity as well as promote United Nations values and special themes. UNOG together with 35 Member States organized cultural events at the Palais des Nations, namely exhibits, concerts and films during the course of the year.

During 2006, UNOG put on, among others, an exhibit entitled "A Century of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates 1901-2005: From Peace Movements to the United Nations", which illustrated the exceptional paths taken by men and women in their struggle for peace in the context of the peace movements of the early twentieth century, of the League of Nations and of the United Nations. A catalogue was also published for the occasion. In addition, two exhibitions were presented in the context of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. The Millennium Development Goals were highlighted in an exhibit of photographs entitled, "Chasing the Dream", proposed by UNFPA. An exhibition containing the works of victims of torture was prepared in collaboration with OHCHR on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fund for Torture Victims and the publication of a report entitled *Reconstructing lives*.



The UNOG website

The UNOG website (www.unog.ch) continues to be regularly updated to provide accurate and timely information about the work of UNOG. A direct access has been added to cover the activities of the newly founded Human Rights Council, including a direct link to the United Nations webcast service.

A major enrichment was brought to the Disarmament section, which now contains, in addition to the information concerning the Conference on Disarmament, a large number of documents related to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons or Inhumane Weapons Convention, and the Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme of Action.

In parallel, a new programme has been put into operation on the UNOG website to ensure a constant update of information published in the calendar concerning the meetings and conferences to which the Organization provides support. An interface between the eMeets database and the calendar of the UNOG website was developed and implemented in May. All relevant meetings data are therefore automatically transferred from the database to the UNOG web calendar in English and French, allowing permanent missions and other entities to plan in advance their activities and participation in various United Nations events. The UNOG web calendar also provides links to websites of United Nations entities, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, joint programmes, various initiatives and organizations related to the United Nations system, with a presence in Geneva. Wherever a calendar of meetings or events is available, a direct link is now also available on the UNOG website.

The Library section of the UNOG website has been expanded to include access to UNDOCS, the UNOG Library United Nations Documents catalogue and a new link to Training for Diplomats which contains comprehensive information on library information sessions organized to specifically meet the needs of the diplomatic community in Geneva. In this context, information sessions on online research tools continue to be in demand by permanent missions, NGOs, universities, participants in UNOG study programmes and individuals.

Finally, in order to assess the quality of the information provided on its website, UNOG has launched a survey among all permanent missions and permanent observer offices to gather their views on the content and the ease of use of the UNOG website. The feedback and the valuable comments and proposals have been instrumental in the further development of the website with several suggestions having already been implemented.



Modernizing and streamlining the use of resources

At the World Summit, world leaders made a commitment to overhaul rules and policies on human resources, budget, finance and information technology, to allow the United Nations to respond better to current needs. Through the review of existing practices and the consistent implementation of innovative measures and procedures, UNOG is in step with this process. In particular, UNOG is strongly committed to consolidating its managerial and policy-provider role, as well as to providing cost-efficient, reliable and effective support services to its clients that consist of some 20 United Nations Secretariat-related offices and 22 Geneva-based entities of the United Nations common system. In addition, UNOG strives to maintain and improve the outstanding architectural and historical heritage of the Palais des Nations, its buildings, annexes (some 153,000 square metres and 2,800 offices), parks and gardens. The state of the buildings of the Palais des Nations poses a key problem and requires a strategic approach, such as a capital master plan rather than makeshift solutions in order to address the renovation of buildings in an efficient and effective manner. UNOG has implemented a centralized system in order to enable all utilities such as heating, ventilation and lighting, to be controlled and managed remotely, which is updated on a regular basis to improve utilities management.

Efficiency through common services

UNOG continues to provide various common services in the areas of procurement, official travel, the issuance of United Nations documents, transportation and other services to more than 64 United Nations entities based in Geneva and other duty stations. UNOG established some 4,300 contracts

worth over US\$ 53 million, processed some 24,000 travel authorizations worth US\$ 26 million, secured some 4,400 visas, and handled approximately 18,000 United Nations official documents for organizations and agencies based in Geneva and other locations.

The experience, good practices, client orientation and efficiency of UNOG are shared with the other Geneva-based United Nations entities through common service structures. In this context, UNOG continues to assume the leadership of the three-tier structure approved by the Secretary-General. The Management Ownership Committee, assisted by the Task Force on Common Services and various working groups, is actively promoting common service initiatives at the local level. Furthermore, the Common Procurement Activities Group (CPAG), the secretariat of which is provided by UNOG, has contributed greatly to the consolidation of procurement activities. CPAG is an essential platform for sharing experiences, research and best practices, as well as for coordinating procurement activities with a view to promoting the standardization of policies, procedures and training programmes and, most importantly, benefiting from economies of scale in the international marketplace by pooling procurement volumes. As a result, over 10 procurement projects for which UNOG acted as lead agency have come into effect over the past 12 months. These projects included the establishment of contracts for airline and travel services, copier services, electricity, office supplies, computer equipment and related requirements, as well as heating-oil supply.

UNOG continues to explore all avenues conducive to a more efficient use of available resources. As a result of negotiations undertaken with air carriers, the average airfare only increased by 4 per cent over the last three years compared to a global increase of 20 per cent in the average ticket price for traffic departing from Switzerland. Significant cost avoidances were also achieved for electricity amounting to US\$ 650,000, approximately US\$ 4.5 million for all types of air travel, including US\$ 1 million resulting from the value-added benefit of joint negotiations in 2005, and US\$ 100,000 on heating oil for UNOG alone.

Building an effective workforce

The Organization's most valuable asset is its people. UNOG continues to implement measures to reinforce its ability to attract and retain talented,

innovative and versatile international civil servants. In addition, the Organization's increasingly complex mandates require new skills for its staff, particularly in field operations. To this end, UNOG continues to support the Organization-wide reform programme, which is designed to foster a culture of continuous learning, high performance and managerial excellence.

UNOG provides a full range of human resource management activities for some 3,500 staff members in more than 30 departments and offices based in Geneva, Bonn, and Turin, Italy. In addition, around 1,500 consultants and individual contractors were recruited by UNOG. In 2006, to reflect the shift from a headquarters to a field-based organization, UNOG further extended its services to the field, which now cover over 80 offices worldwide including field offices of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and OHCHR. Special arrangements were made to provide services to OCHA on a 24-hour basis in case of emergencies including, amongst others, a full range of human resource management activities in the areas of recruitment, placement and promotion of staff and administration of entitlements.

In addition to traditional language and substantive skills training, UNOG continues to offer a wide range of staff development and career support programmes which focus on supporting the Secretary-General's overall strategy to strengthen the development of human resources and meet the increased expectations of Member States. Particular emphasis has been put on the implementation of managed mobility and further development of performance management.

Reinforcing effective security and safety measures

UNOG continues to strive to preserve the delicate balance between maintaining the highest standards of security and a policy of openness to make the UNOG grounds as accessible as possible.

In 2006, as Designated Security Official for Switzerland, the Director-General chaired the meetings of the Security Management Team, a security coordination body between the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies. Ensuring the safety of staff, visitors and the tens of thousands of delegates and participants who attend various conferences on the premises of UNOG is a matter of priority for UNOG and its Director-General.

This year, UNOG has undertaken major works in the context of its activities to strengthen security. The new Pregny entrance, which includes an accreditation centre, and the internal access road leading up to the Bocage annex were inaugurated. The Nations entrance, the reinforcement of the perimeter fence, the installation of shatter-resistant film on the windows of the building and the renovation of the Control Operations Centre infrastructure were also completed. In addition, the construction of a new building to accommodate mail and pouch activities and the introduction of a 25-metre stand-off zone around the buildings will be implemented in 2007. An implementation plan for the stand-off zone is under way and UNOG is examining ways to minimize the impact of these measures and the potential inconvenience to all users, in particular to the members of the diplomatic community. All permanent missions and observer offices will be duly informed prior to the implementation of the complete security enhancement plan.

Following the security threat alert concerning United Nations premises in Geneva, received from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland on 4 October 2006, special security measures were implemented in all premises under the responsibility of UNOG security services. These included a thorough inspection of all premises, strict access controls and enhanced surveillance patrols. The security alert, which came to an end on 6 October 2006, was managed in close contact with the local police.

A lessons-learned exercise was carried out the following week that determined the need for enhancing coordination between Geneva-based United Nations entities, under the leadership of the Designated Security Official. Ways in which to achieve this enhancement are under consideration and should include, inter alia, the consolidation of the role of the Security Management Team as a policy making entity, the establishment of mechanisms for better coordination between United Nations entities and making the UNOG Security and Safety Section more professional to enable it to play a leading role in the establishment and implementation of these mechanisms.

Optimal utilization of information technology

UNOG continues to improve its local information and communication technology infrastructure and related services in order to enable users to fulfil their mandates. These advances have increased the quality of services while protecting vital data and operations in a secure environment.

The Palais des Nations has been equipped with a public address system to broadcast security-related announcements simultaneously throughout the United Nations premises and provide emergency instructions to all users. Two additional projects were carried out in close coordination with United Nations Headquarters in New York. The first is a major infrastructure upgrade of the telephone switch, which will allow for a future migration to Internet Protocol Telephony (IPT, Voice over IP), with all its related cost benefits. The second concerns the upgrade of redundant network links between the Palais des Nations and the United Nations International Computing Centre (ICC) building. This shall allow the replication of mission critical data at the ICC building given that it has been identified as the disaster recovery/business continuity site for UNOG data.

In addition, UNOG has installed a spam filter for electronic mail for its client base and further increased the number of conference rooms equipped with wireless Internet access. UNOG continues to expand its e-mail services and has undertaken the implementation of the Information Technology Infrastructure Library, the most widely accepted approach to information technology service management in the world. In parallel, UNOG is continuing to work towards enhancing the maintenance and improvement of information security management as part of a corresponding initiative across all major United Nations duty stations.

Enhancing financial management to address future challenges

UNOG continues to provide core financial support services, covering envelope authorizations for trust funds, issuance of allotments, post management, accounts and financial reporting, processing of payments, staff payroll, treasury and medical insurance services, to more than 20 Geneva-based organizations and departments, as well as entities located in Bonn and Turin.

Services provided and expenditures incurred are financed from the regular budget and extra-budgetary sources of the Organization. UNOG managed regular budget funds worth US\$ 235 million in 2006. The size of extrabudgetary activities in areas such as humanitarian affairs, disaster relief and human rights has increased over recent years, resulting in an ever-growing number of financial services requested from UNOG. The UNOG Treasury managed an average number of 10,100 payment transactions per month for both regular and extra-budgetary activities, with an average monthly value disbursement of US\$ 56 million, of which US\$ 31 million pertain to extrabudgetary activities.

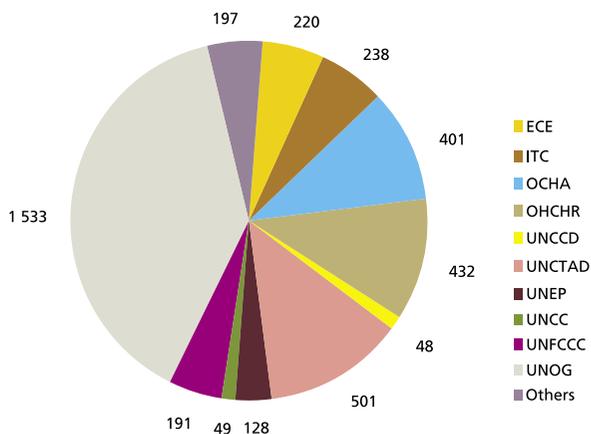
As at August 2006, there were 3,938 staff members on the UNOG payroll, including 450 staff members stationed outside Geneva. The medical insurance services administered by UNOG covered 19,419 staff members of which 4,517 were retirees.

A critical step towards further improving the efficiency of financial management in the United Nations stems from the decision taken by the General Assembly for the Organization to adopt the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the year 2010. As a pro-active response to this development, a seminar introducing the main requirements of these International Standards was organized for key staff members involved in financial resource management at UNOG.

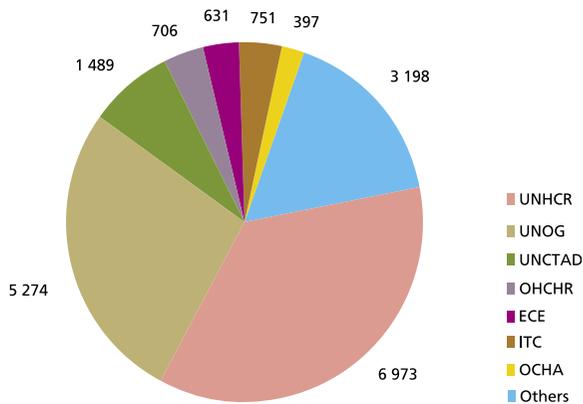
Particular priority has been given this year to streamlining procedures and increasing awareness of staff to fraud prevention. To this effect, staff performing financial duties in UNOG have attended various seminars and workshops presented by international experts in the field of fraud and corruption prevention.

In 2006, UNOG and the Headquarters Treasury jointly launched a new integrated project comprising the Integrated Management Information System, the Consolidated Treasury system, the Operations Processing Integrated Control System, Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), jointly known as ICOS with the aim to further improve the treasury service. In addition to strengthening treasury operations, this enhancement is a significant move towards UNOG becoming the business continuity station for United Nations Headquarters.

**Payroll - Entities serviced by UNOG/FRMS
(Total : 3 938 staff members) as at August 2006**



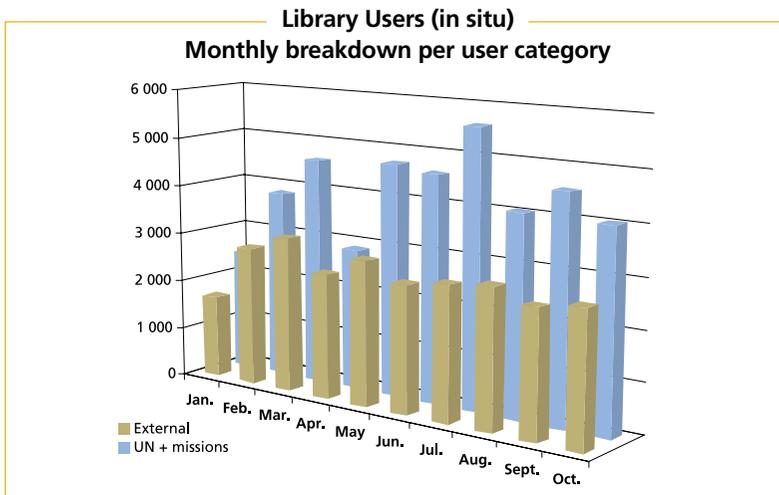
**Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accident
Entities serviced by UNOG/FRMS
(Total 19 419 members including 4 517 retirees)
as at August 2006**



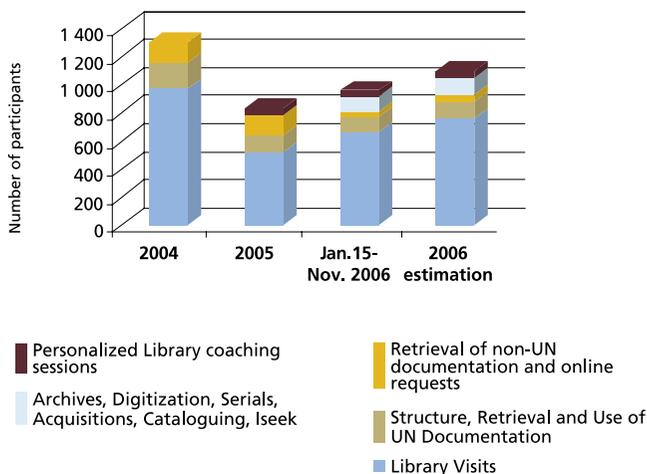


Preserving the past and documenting for the future

UNOG provides a solid foundation for comprehensive research in all areas of the work of the United Nations. Steered by the commitments of the Organization at the World Summit of 2005 to build a more effective institution including in the realm of information and communication, UNOG has continued to modernize and improve its capacity to inform an ever-growing community of both internal and external users of its library services. In a changing society revolutionized by information and communication technologies, the UNOG Library has pursued efforts to retain its original functions of repository and bibliographic control while opening up its collections to the world and continuing to make improvements by fully exploiting the new technologies available.



Library Visits, Library Information Sessions and Personalized Library Coaching Sessions



Preserving institutional memory

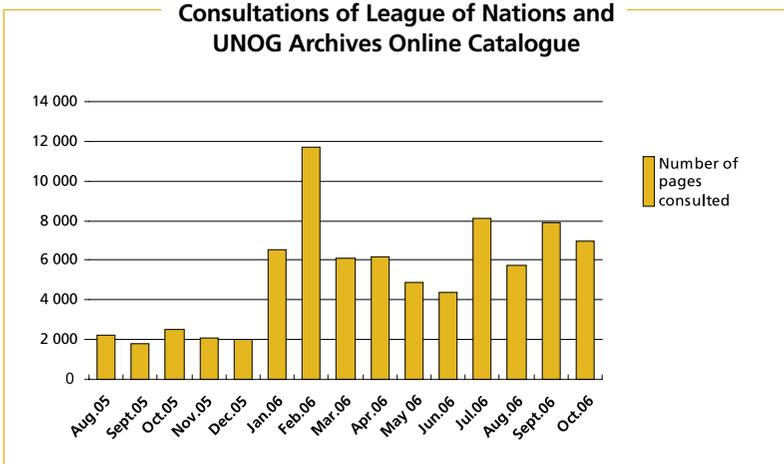
UNOG has continued to provide indexing services for documents and publications produced by United Nations departments and meetings in Geneva, including all the current documentation of UNCTAD, ECE, ILC, the Human Rights Council and its Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. It has in parallel continued its programme of microfiche production of United Nations documents. Some 30,000 documents have been converted to microfiche for a total of 193,000 pages corresponding to 2,400 microfiche masters. Continuous efforts are being made to integrate all official languages in the microfiche collection thus advancing the mandate on multilingualism of the Organization.

UNOG has supported the work of the Organization in the field of human rights by indexing all documents emanating from the final session of the Commission on Human Rights held from 20 March to 21 April 2006, as well

as the documents of the Commission's successor, the Human Rights Council. Also in an effort to preserve and provide access to the Organization's historical memory in the field of human rights, UNOG has undertaken a project to index and digitize Commission on Human Rights documents dating back to its first session in 1947. In this context, the arrangement, description and rehousing of the records of the Division of Human Rights (the predecessor of OHCHR) from 1946 through 1974 were completed in December 2005. The records, which serve to illustrate, for the first time, the political, legal and philosophical arguments behind the protection of human rights against State interference, include the working papers of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Division pertaining to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In addition, the voluminous correspondence containing allegations of violations of human rights provides an ongoing testimony to the victims of the Second World War, the Cold war and the struggles against colonialism, apartheid, racism and authoritarian rule throughout the world.

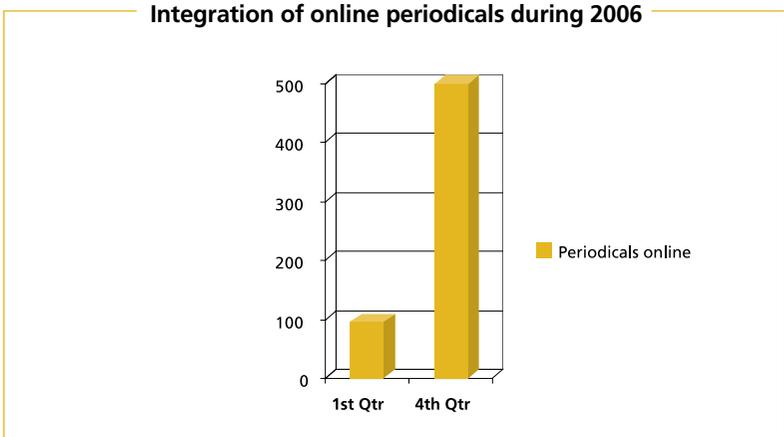
The Library Archives Unit of UNOG has continued to focus its efforts on facilitating access to the League of Nations and the UNOG archival collection through its automated catalogue. Available online since the end of August 2005, this catalogue has allowed a considerably enlarged community of users worldwide to have access to information on the contents of the unique collections held by the UNOG Library, which before August 2005 was only possible for persons in situ (174 individual researchers in 2005). From September 2005 to August 2006, more than 62,000 pages of the Archives catalogue were consulted.

In response to the increasing institutional need for records management, which has been recognized since 2001, a new system is slowly evolving whereby departments now entrust their administrative records to UNOG archives for safekeeping and classifying. The volume of these records is measured in terms of linear metres. In 2006 alone, 84 units from 14 departments transferred more than 615.6 linear metres of records to the UNOG Archives. In this regard, UNOG now facilitates the public to access the League of Nations and other historical Archives through the Internet.



Enhancing information management practices

In 2006, UNOG enriched its online catalogue by fully integrating 500 periodicals and 230 newspapers. As a result, through the links provided in the Library online catalogue, users have full access to articles and complete bibliographic information and are also able to print each title.



In an effort to enhance the dissemination of information, UNOG has digitized and uploaded 20,000 documents, representing some 125,000 pages, onto the Official Documents System and the United Nations library catalogues. This includes Security Council documents as part of a common programme of work with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, human rights documents and other miscellaneous documents. In addition, efforts to improve the preservation programme of past and current United Nations documentation have been undertaken.

Since November 2005, the UNOG Library has started to use two online inter-library loan modules, the RERO network, which includes 215 libraries in French-speaking Switzerland and the IDS-NEBIS system, which covers Swiss-German libraries. These online inter-library loan systems are much more time-efficient and economical than the traditional systems.



UNOG and our common future agenda

Our world faces daunting and ever-evolving challenges to peace, development and human rights. Regional conflicts, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the absence of progress in strategic disarmament, terrorism, violation of human rights, crippling poverty, the continued spread of HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, organized crime and environmental degradation threaten the human security of people everywhere – regardless of nationality and background. Across the globe, people look to the United Nations to confront these challenges. The growing demand for United Nations involvement testifies to the Organization’s key role in maintaining peace and security, advancing development and defending the dignity of every human being. Every day, in all our efforts, we strive to honour this confidence placed in our unique Organization by those that we serve: the peoples of the world.

The credibility of the United Nations depends on our ability to meet their expectations. Continued renewal and reform of the Organization are critical for us to deliver on promises and pledges. As the United Nations is called upon to take on more tasks, in more regions of the world and, often in complex contexts, we must build on our achievements and capitalize on our experience to make the Organization more efficient and have greater impact. We must work together transparently and flexibly, with determination, integrity and full accountability, to revitalize our common endeavour. All resources must be properly utilized and not wasted on duplication. In all its activities, UNOG looks to support this continued reform of the Organization to equip it to discharge its responsibilities and produce practical results.

Trust and genuine dialogue among all stakeholders are essential to forging a consensus that will allow us to tackle today’s threats and challenges. Effective multilateral mechanisms help us to build bridges and find common ground,

balancing the priorities of all. As the United Nations opens another chapter in its history, UNOG remains committed to building partnerships and enabling an open exchange of ideas, views and proposals as well as to determining a shared agenda. In this way, UNOG will continue to play its part in overcoming divisions, helping to enable the international community to implement its common agenda for action.

Working with partners, UNOG will continue to contribute to the overall effort to build a better future for all through a strengthened United Nations. The measure of success will be results that mean positive change to people's lives throughout the world. With commitment and dedication, we will do our share to turn the vision of a world of peace, prosperity and dignity for all into reality.