



Delivering better for peace, development and human rights

2007

Sergei Ordzhonikidze
Director-General

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

A large, light blue, semi-transparent laurel wreath is overlaid on the left side of the page. The background is a photograph of the United Nations Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland, with a long row of national flags on poles leading towards the building. Several people are walking in the foreground, slightly out of focus.

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U N I T E D N A T I O N S O F F I C E A T G E N E V A

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Delivering better for peace, development and human rights



Last year marked an important juncture for the United Nations, with the election of a new Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. Building on the legacy of previous years, the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of strengthening the three pillars of the United Nations – security, development and human rights – as prerequisites for a more peaceful, more prosperous and more just world. Similarly to peace and stability, the threats and challenges of our times are interrelated and require consolidated approaches and solutions. In all areas of its activity, the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) remains committed to moving forward the overall objectives of the Organization.

As a centre for multilateral exchange – particularly in disarmament, promotion and protection of human rights, advancement of economic and social development and the provision of humanitarian assistance – UNOG is continuing to provide a valuable framework and platform in which all stakeholders can engage in constructive dialogue. Among the highlights of 2007 was the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), marked this year by the launch of the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum – two new functions mandated by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit to step up implementation of the United Nations development agenda. The adoption during the session of a Ministerial Declaration by consensus demonstrated the determination of the international community to overcome the obstacles in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular the eradication of poverty. In July 2007, UNOG also hosted the Global

Compact Leaders Summit, which brought together an unprecedented number of leaders from different sectors of society, united in their commitment to universal social and environmental principles. This Summit turned a new page in public-private partnerships, which have marked efforts in recent years to bring about a more inclusive global economy. Perhaps more importantly, it sent a clear message that delivering better in the areas of peace, development and human rights requires the commitment and contribution of all stakeholders.

Geneva, with its large presence of international organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, provides a unique and fitting environment in which these stakeholders can come together. It also benefits from the historical legacy of the League of Nations, headquartered on the grounds of the Palais des Nations, which later became the home of UNOG.

The material aspect of this legacy is partially threatened by the state of the buildings of the Palais des Nations, maintaining which is a vital practical component of the Organization's daily work. Like the main United Nations complex at Headquarters, the Palais des Nations has not been significantly refurbished since its construction seven decades ago. Therefore, the scale of the problem requires, as it does at Headquarters, that the renovation of the buildings be addressed through a strategic and holistic approach, rather than temporary and makeshift solutions.

The much-needed refurbishment and renovation of the Palais des Nations is also a prerequisite for contributing effectively to the Secretary-General's "Greening of the United Nations" initiative. The Secretary-General is committed not only to making the Organization's Headquarters climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable but also to ensuring that all United Nations buildings at all duty stations are energy efficient.

Without a comprehensive renovation of the Palais, UNOG will be unable to continue offering safe facilities and adequate services to its many thousands of users and to preserve the exceptional cultural heritage entrusted to the United Nations.

In his acceptance speech to the General Assembly on his appointment, the Secretary-General stressed that "the true measure of success for the

United Nations is not how much we promise, but how much we deliver for those who need us most". Therefore, this 2007 Annual Report presents the main highlights of the activities of UNOG throughout the year, focusing in particular on the efforts carried out to comply with the vision of the Secretary-General of an organization delivering better for peace, development and human rights. It is hoped that the report can help to provide a deeper insight to all those interested in the work of the Organization.



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



A centre for multilateral dialogue and exchange

In his first address to the Security Council, in January 2007, the Secretary-General pointed to a number of issues which present threats to the security of people around the world and to the entire international community, and which “no country can resolve on its own”. These issues call for concerted and collective responses. Constructive dialogue and exchanges between all actors is key to overcoming differences and formulating durable strategies for combating current and future challenges to peace, development and human rights. As a global centre for international dialogue and diplomacy, UNOG continues to facilitate and initiate international discussions with a view to achieving internationally agreed objectives in the areas of development, peace and human rights. In 2007, as in previous years, Heads of State and Government, cabinet ministers and other high-level political representatives visited the United Nations grounds in Geneva to participate in deliberations of intergovernmental bodies. UNOG facilitates the participation of these high-level visitors in meetings of the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Conference on Disarmament and many other intergovernmental meetings. In his capacity as the Secretary-General’s representative, the Director-General met with many of them for an exchange of views and to promote the priorities of the Organization.

Supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General

UNOG continued to support the efforts of the Secretary-General and to provide essential services for a number of significant international negotiations. UNOG planned and ensured the smooth running of the two visits to Switzerland of the Secretary-General, which took place as follows: (i) from 19 to 22 April 2007 for the main purposes of meeting with the host country federal and cantonal authorities in Bern and Geneva, participating in

the session of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination at Mont-Pélerin, and meeting with UNOG staff; and (ii) from 1 to 7 July 2007, to participate in the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC, and to take part in the Global Compact Leaders Summit.

In addition, the Director-General represented the Secretary-General in Geneva and Switzerland, as well as in events around the world, which includes regular participation in conferences and meetings held by partner organizations. On 31 May 2007, the Director-General participated in an event to mark the tenth anniversary of the Cooperation Agreement between the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in St. Petersburg, Russia. On 1 June 2007, the Director-General addressed the Pan-European Conference on Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue, also co-organized by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In September 2007, he delivered opening remarks at a colloquium entitled "Topicality of the 1907 Hague Conference – the second Peace Conference" organized by the Hague Academy of International Law. From 5 to 7 October 2007, the Director-General was invited to speak at the Green Cross International General Assembly which took place in New Orleans, United States of America. On 29 and 30 October 2007, he addressed a two-day high-level conference organized by the Government of Norway entitled "Multidimensional and Integrated Peace Operations: Trends and Challenges", held in Oslo. The conference provided a forum to exchange views and propose improvements to current practices related to the integrated missions concept in the field of peacekeeping.

In the course of the year, the Director-General met with many dignitaries, both in and outside Geneva, including: King Juan Carlos of Spain; the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki; the Spanish Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé; and others.

High-level visits to UNOG – 2007

Personalities	Number of visits
Secretary-General of the United Nations	2
Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Heads of State	20
Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers	10
Ministers for Foreign Affairs	37
Other Ministers and Secretaries of State	150
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations	3
Other dignitaries	147
Total number of visits	369

Throughout the year, UNOG maintained a fruitful interaction with the Club of Madrid, an association of former Heads of State and Government, based in Madrid. On 18 September 2007, the Director-General met with the Secretary-General of the Club of Madrid, H.E. Mr. Fernando Perpiñá, and discussed how the United Nations and the Club may build on existing synergies in promoting democracy and good governance, moving ahead disarmament and non-proliferation, fighting terrorism, addressing climate change and building bridges among cultures. On 20 November 2007, UNOG was represented at the Club of Madrid's Annual Conference entitled "Democratizing Energy: Geopolitics and Power", held in Madrid.

Facilitating the efforts of the diplomatic community

In 2007, the total number of permanent missions accredited to UNOG reached 163 with the latest additions, in January and September 2007, of the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Montenegro and of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, respectively. Three permanent missions are preparing to open their offices by the end of the year, namely the Comoros, Grenada and the Niger. The total number of permanent observer missions and permanent observer offices has reached two and eight respectively. UNOG continues to provide extensive assistance to the diplomatic community and intergovernmental organizations in Geneva, including in their

interaction with the host country. The Office contributes to enhancing international cooperation and understanding within the diplomatic community in Geneva, as well as ensuring optimum working conditions for the smooth functioning of all aspects of multilateral diplomacy.

To facilitate interaction with the diplomatic community, the Director-General continued his regular, informal exchanges with Geneva-based regional groups of Member States at the Ambassador level. The meetings focused on United Nations reform, including efforts to strengthen system-wide coherence and coordination and a range of issues on the work of the Organization in the fields of climate change, economic and social development, as well as peacekeeping and peacebuilding. During the meetings, the Director-General and the Permanent Representatives also reviewed logistical issues linked to the functioning of UNOG and the services it provides to the diplomatic community. The consultations provide an important platform for information sharing between UNOG and the diplomatic community. They are appreciated by the Member States.

Addressing disarmament and non-proliferation

UNOG is an important centre for international diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. It is home to the Conference on Disarmament – the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body – and hosts a large number of disarmament-related conferences and events. The Director-General of UNOG, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Conference, continued to provide support and advice to Member States in formal and informal meetings and to contribute to the smooth running of the Conference, helping to stimulate progress towards the achievement of its objectives. The Director-General is also closely involved in the numerous other disarmament activities that take place at the Palais des Nations. The Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in conjunction with the relevant services within UNOG, provides substantive and organizational support to these events.

During the course of the year, the Conference on Disarmament intensively addressed all the issues on its agenda. These deliberations, which

were conducted under the guidance of seven Coordinators appointed by the six Presidents of this year's session and in accordance with an agreed organizational framework, are the logical continuation of the initiative that started in 2005 and moved forward in 2006. As was the case during the last two years, the Conference benefited from actively engaging in discussions on all its agenda items but in particular on such important issues as the use of fissile materials for nuclear weapons purposes, the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In spite of the momentum that was generated over the past 18 months, the Conference has, in 2007, once again been unsuccessful in its attempts to adopt a programme of work. On the basis of an organizational framework created by the six Presidents of the 2007 session and guided by Coordinators appointed by those Presidents, the Conference conducted intensive deliberations on each of the seven substantive items on its agenda. The six Presidents subsequently tabled a proposal, which included a mandate to negotiate an agreement banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons use and other explosive devices. It also provided for "substantive discussions" on the other core issues, namely nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS).

As agreed at the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) was established in 2007 within the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. ISU will assist States Parties in their efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and to reduce the threat posed by biological weapons. This decision, one of the highlights of the Final Declaration of the Review Conference of 2006, signified a landmark in the history of the international community's efforts against biological weapons, as the Convention itself has no provision for institutional support. At its inauguration in August 2007, the Director-General was joined by the newly appointed High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Sergio Duarte.

The Geneva Process has continued in 2007 to address the illicit trade, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. Initiated by the Geneva Forum – a joint initiative of the Quaker United Nations Office, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies of the Graduate Institute of International Studies – the Process has no formal role in the United Nations Conference process and its meetings do not fulfil any official preparatory function. Nevertheless, it makes a number of important contributions to international efforts to monitor and promote implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects. The Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs is an active participant in its meetings. The Director of the Geneva Branch has been chairing the Process during the second half of the year.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which provided an opportunity to recall the importance of the Convention as a unique instrument banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction comprehensively, together with creating verification tools. It is a landmark commitment from the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Other important disarmament-related meetings in Geneva in 2007 included the annual meetings of the States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Biological Weapons Convention, which were held, respectively, in November and December 2007. Both meetings were preceded and prepared for by a meeting of experts, also in the course of the year. Similarly, UNOG supported activities under the Mine-Ban Convention, notably the annual meeting of States Parties held in Jordan and its preparatory process, in which the Director-General participated on 4 April 2007.

The Director-General provided the Secretary-General with regular briefings and timely updates on the work of the Conference on Disarmament and advised him on possible future developments, contributing to policy formulation and decision-making in the area of disarmament.

Contributing to the framework of international law

Promoting the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law remains fundamental to achieving United Nations objectives in the areas of peace, security and human rights. In this context, UNOG is actively supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General aimed at strengthening the rule of law and respect for the provisions of treaties and other sources of international law. One of the principal bodies in this context is the International Law Commission (ILC), established by the General Assembly in 1947, as one of the instruments for the codification of international law.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/34 of 4 December 2006, ILC held its fifty-ninth session in May/June and July/August 2007 at the Palais des Nations. UNOG provided administrative support to the Commission in order to facilitate its work during this period. At this year's session, discussions focused on a range of issues, including the responsibility of international organizations, shared natural resources, reservations to treaties, effects of armed conflicts on treaties, the obligation to extradite or prosecute and the expulsion of aliens.

In conjunction with the meetings of ILC, UNOG organized and directed the forty-third International Law Seminar. The Seminar is intended for postgraduate students of international law and young professors or government officials dealing with questions of international law in the course of their work. The three-week Seminar enables the participants to become familiar with the work of ILC by attending its public meetings and following a programme of lectures delivered by ILC members. Various other lectures and briefings are also organized, dealing with the work of other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



Building partnerships in pursuit of common goals

The United Nations is the only organization with worldwide membership, global reach and universal legitimacy needed to address today's global challenges. However, as the Secretary-General has often emphasized, the Organization can do its job effectively only in cooperation with partners. Therefore, the United Nations needs to forge increasingly closer ties with other intergovernmental organizations, civil society groups, foundations, academic institutions, the media, labour unions and the private sector. Each has unique contributions to make. Throughout 2007, UNOG continued to cooperate with a multitude of external partners, as well as build on its excellent relations with the host country authorities.

Maintaining host country relations

Maintaining the strong working relationship that exists between UNOG and the host country authorities at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels is pivotal to finding effective solutions to the multifaceted concerns of the diplomatic community in Geneva. The close cooperation between UNOG and the host country is reflected in the areas of security, diplomatic privileges, immunities, as well as in the successful organization of numerous international conferences, both at the Palais des Nations and outside.

Switzerland is actively engaged in all areas of the Organization's work. The Swiss Government welcomed the Secretary-General and his delegation during his first visit to Switzerland in April 2007, when he met leaders of the Swiss Government and discussed ways in which the already-strong partnership between the United Nations and the host country could be

made more effective. In keeping with the tradition of previous years, UNOG participated, in June 2007, in an event organized by Switzerland in an effort to enhance relations between political representatives of the cantons of Geneva and Vaud, neighbouring France and representatives of the international community in Geneva. With the support of Switzerland, an NGO Welcome Desk at the Palais des Nations was established to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organization (NGO) delegates in the work of HRC. The Welcome Desk is managed by Mandat International, in coordination with other NGOs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNOG. Inaugurated in June 2007, it is supported by the Swiss Foreign Affairs Department for a pilot phase of seven months, until the end of December 2007.

Achieving system-wide coherence

A common vision and a more coherent United Nations system are key to improving the ability of the United Nations to deliver across the board, but most crucially, in development, humanitarian assistance, the environment and human rights. Improved information sharing, cooperation and coordination are critical to achieving greater system-wide coherence. In this context, UNOG engages with the entire United Nations family to contribute towards harmonized and consistent efforts in support of the international community's shared agenda for action through regular exchanges with heads of United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to discuss issues of mutual concern. As member of the Secretary-General's Senior Management Group, the Director-General contributes to the exchange of information and the strengthening of linkages within the United Nations family. On 20 and 21 April 2007, the Director-General participated in the session of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination at Mont-Pélerin, which aims to strengthen coordination and cooperation on a whole range of substantive and management issues facing United Nations system organizations.

The Director-General and other senior United Nations officials participated in a retreat at the United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy, from 31 August to 2 September 2007 as part of ongoing efforts to consolidate a common vision and programme for action within the United Nations.

The discussions focused on United Nations global issues, current reforms and challenges facing the Organization and on delivering results, and provided an opportunity for sharing experiences. Four main themes were discussed: “Shaping the UN to Meet Global Challenges”, which took the form of a general analysis and discussion of current reforms; “Communicating with One Voice”, covering both internal and external communications; “Managing for Results”, which included a focus on risk management; and “New Horizons”, an exchange on areas the Organization can leverage for greater impact internally and externally, as well as opportunities for private-public partnerships and learning.

UNOG takes part in the regular discussions at the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), a high-level coordinating forum for facilitating policy planning, decision-making and management of international peace and security, as well as for ensuring coherence in the work of the Organization.

Throughout 2007, UNOG has reinforced its long-standing close cooperation and regular information sharing with United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, through meetings and exchanges of information. The Director-General consistently opens and participates in meetings of the governing bodies of United Nations specialized agencies and other entities based in Geneva. The important meetings and conferences in which UNOG participated in 2007 included: the sixtieth World Health Assembly, which approved, inter alia, the establishment of an international stockpile of vaccines to address the threat of a pandemic of influenza; the Annual Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; the fifty-ninth Session of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization which assessed the evolution of global climatic change; the ninety-sixth International Labour Conference, which approved the Fishing Convention designed to protect and regulate labour rights in the fishing sector; ECOSOC with the launch of the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum; the forty-third Series of meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization, which updated the mechanism for international patents and copyrights; and the Annual Council of Administration of the Universal Postal Union which discussed the impact of electronic identity fraud to the global postal system.

UNOG was present at the General Council of the World Trade Organization, and an observer at the numerous Working Party accession meetings of Member States ranging from Algeria to the Ukraine. UNOG also assisted in different political and organizational ways the workings of the fifth and sixth Sessions of HRC.

Fostering closer cooperation with regional and other intergovernmental organizations

The more complex the challenges confronting the international community, the more crucial are the partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations. Since 1994, the United Nations has convened seven high-level meetings with the heads of regional and other intergovernmental organizations. In support of the Secretary-General's efforts in this area and in line with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for collaboration between the United Nations and regional structures, UNOG has made an effort throughout the year to deepen its cooperation with regional and other intergovernmental organizations, in particular those based in Europe.

UNOG engages with regional organizations, primarily through the annual "Tripartite-Plus" process, a framework of informal consultations between the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE), which has expanded in recent years to include other European regional partners. Initiated in 1993 and chaired in turn by the three founding members, "Tripartite-Plus" is a process of engagement aimed at involving regional and other intergovernmental organizations more closely in support of the work of the United Nations. It provides a valuable forum for information sharing and for improving practical cooperation by drawing on each other's expertise to find a common approach to issues of mutual interest and to better coordinate efforts to address challenges to peace, development and human rights.

On 14 February 2007, having hosted the 2006 session at UNOG, the Director-General participated in the 2007 session of the High-Level Meeting of the "Tripartite-Plus" process on the theme "Implementation of the United

Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy”, which took place in Vienna under the chairmanship of OSCE. In addition to the three original partners, high-level representatives of the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the International Organization for Migration, ICRC, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization also 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 – contributed as well.

Participants underscored that preventing and combating terrorism remained a top priority for their organizations. In this context, they underlined the importance of adopting an integrated and comprehensive approach to combating terrorism and welcomed the common framework provided to their efforts by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The key role that regional organizations could play in operationalizing global policies at the regional level in this field was highlighted, as was the significance of disarmament as a central component in collective counter-terrorism efforts. All participants concurred on the need to eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including through the promotion of development goals, good governance, human rights for all and the rule of law, as well as political and social inclusion. As in previous years, a joint communiqué outlining the conclusions of the meeting was issued. It was reported to the Secretary-General and shared with the Department of Political Affairs and other Secretariat entities.

Contribution of international and intellectual Geneva to peace and security

Geneva benefits from the presence of a wide range of actors in a variety of areas of international public policy with essential knowledge and practical, field-based experience that can make a significant contribution to reinforcing the international community’s responses to today’s threats and challenges. For the United Nations, interaction with the multitude of stakeholders based in Geneva, particularly from among the research and academic communities,

is essential to finding innovative and effective contributions to areas such as peacekeeping and peacebuilding, crisis management and conflict prevention.

As part of an initiative launched by the Director-General, a one-day conference entitled “Our Common Peacebuilding Challenge – the Contribution of International Geneva” was jointly organized by UNOG and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) on 6 November 2007. The event brought major stakeholders based outside of United Nations Headquarters up to date on the progress achieved and difficulties met by the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception and on prospects for its activities. GCSP presented findings and conclusions of its comprehensive mapping of the organizations in Geneva involved in peacebuilding and of their particular capacities, as well as of the strengths and gaps that have been identified. The discussions also focused on exploring ways in which Geneva-based organizations engaged in peacebuilding work, from within and outside the United Nations system, could contribute to the work of the Commission. All participants agreed that ensuring participation of all concerned actors in the field as well as at all United Nations Headquarters and improving coordination between them was central to bolstering the international community’s peacebuilding response, particularly in the transition from humanitarian assistance to longer-term development. The opening session included introductory remarks by the Director-General and the Director of GCSP, as well as keynote addresses by Ambassador Yukio Takasu, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and Ms. Carolyn McAskie, United Nations Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support.

Within the framework of UNOG’s ongoing cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Director-General co-chaired with the Director of DCAF a fifth annual joint seminar on 6 December 2007 under the theme “Nuclear weapons: governance and accountability”. Prominent speakers, from within and outside the United Nations, discussed approaches to political control of nuclear weapons and the links between domestic governance of nuclear weapons and multilateral non-proliferation regimes. The keynote address by Dr. Hans Blix was followed by an informal exchange between the panel of experts and the invited audience of high-level representatives of the diplomatic community in Geneva. As per past practice, the presentations will be published in an edited

volume for wide dissemination so that the views and proposals presented at the seminar can encourage continued discussion and raise awareness of the complexities of nuclear governance and accountability.

UNOG has continued to maintain fruitful working relations with other members of the Geneva research community including, through the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN), an international research network founded by the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute of International Studies and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies. The Director-General is an ex officio member of the GIAN Foundation Board. The network will be formally disbanded at the end of 2007 following the decision of the founding institutions to create a Swiss Network for International Studies in Geneva, which will be formally established in 2008 and will integrate the mission and activities of GIAN. This decision reflects the dynamism and evolution of the city's academic institutions. UNOG will pursue its collaboration with Geneva's research community within this new and expanded framework.

As part of the ongoing effort within the Organization to enhance links between research and policy planning, UNOG has engaged in dialogue during the course of 2007 with the heads of several United Nations or United Nations-affiliated research and training institutions. The Director-General met, among others, with the new Rector of the United Nations University (UNU) to discuss the Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue (GRPD), which had been the main channel for collaboration between UNOG and UNU until 2004, and to explore various other avenues for collaboration and ways to effectively channel current research into the policy process of the United Nations. He also met with the new Rector of the United Nations University for Peace, John Maresca, as well as with the new Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Carlos Lopes. As in previous years, UNOG attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR. As a result of these meetings, concrete collaborative activities are being worked out that would bring practical intellectual benefits for the work of the Organization.

In the framework of collaboration with academic organizations, several briefings have also been provided in 2007 by UNOG to the North Atlantic

Treaty Organization School. These briefings have focused on the evolving role of the United Nations in peace and security, including in such fields as the fight against terrorism, peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

Collaborating with civil society

As the partnerships between the United Nations and civil society, including NGOs, continue to grow, UNOG remains committed to maintaining and reinforcing these relations. ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 entitled “Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations” provides an important framework for this partnership. More than 3,000 national and international NGOs worldwide are currently in consultative status with ECOSOC and collaborate with the United Nations to achieve internationally agreed global peace, development and human rights goals.

Throughout 2007, UNOG has continued to accredit representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, as well as advise and inform them to ensure that they can effectively contribute to the work of the Organization. Similarly, UNOG assists interested NGOs in obtaining information on the procedure for attaining consultative status with ECOSOC. For NGOs who already enjoy this status, UNOG regularly provides updates on the work of the Organization and briefs, upon request, the diplomatic community, the academic and research communities, the private sector and the general public on the partnership between the United Nations and NGOs. During the course of 2007, UNOG assisted NGOs in arranging meetings, conferences and debates on a range of issues, including defence, protection and promotion of human rights, gender issues, the fight against extreme poverty, environmental protection, dialogue among civilizations and religions, energy, economic and social development, security, peace, conflict prevention and health.

In 2007, many NGO activities at UNOG revolved around two new participatory mechanisms created by General Assembly resolution 61/16 entitled “Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, entrusting to the Council: the Annual Ministerial Review, which allows the Council

to better assess the progress of countries in achieving internationally agreed development goals and scale up development efforts; and the Development Cooperation Forum, which aims to provide policy guidance and recommendations to improve the quality and impact of development cooperation by reviewing trends and progress in international development cooperation. This provided further opportunities for NGOs to contribute to important discussions on the implementation of MDGs. During the substantive session of ECOSOC in Geneva, UNOG coordinated parallel activities organized by NGOs and facilitated their participation in the debates. Among these events was the “Civil Society Development Forum 2007”, which gathered a large number of organizations and focused on the themes “Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies” and “Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development”. The Ministerial Declaration adopted during the ECOSOC session welcomed the holding of the Forum.

In parallel to the first Annual Ministerial Review, UNOG and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations co-organized the first Global Innovation Fair, which brought together more than 30 NGOs. During this side event, directly related to the goals and objectives of MDGs, participants exhibited innovative projects and shared best practices, lessons learned and success stories on the implementation of MDGs.

NGOs were equally active during the regular and special sessions of the recently created HRC. In 2007, HRC concluded its institutional building and set up its working agenda. More than 150 NGOs have actively participated in the Council’s sessions this year. In close collaboration with the Secretariat of this new body, UNOG informed, advised and oriented NGOs in the preparation of their contributions to the new mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review process and special procedures mandates.

In support of the promotion and implementation of the Agreement on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, adopted by consensus in December 2006 by the General Assembly, UNOG offered its conference facilities and substantive support to the International Disability

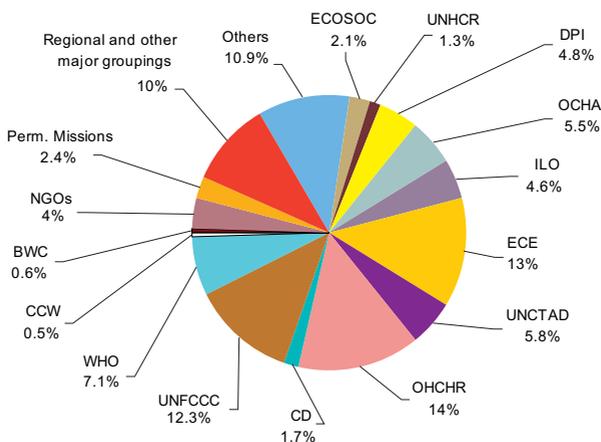
Alliance to enable it to hold an important working meeting on its premises, the first of its kind since 1991. This meeting brought together the main representatives of the Alliance, from different countries from all over the world.

In order to improve the quality of the services offered by UNOG to the large numbers of NGOs working daily in the Palais des Nations, UNOG has inaugurated a new "Resource and Service Centre for NGOs". The Centre, equipped with computers, includes meeting and reference facilities. It was set up through already-existing resources provided by UNOG divisions and services, such as computers from the Office of the Director-General and furniture from the Conference Services Division. The Centre is staffed on a regular basis to provide advice, information and orientation to NGO representatives. NGO representatives will have free access to computers and may also connect their own computers to the Internet through a wireless network.

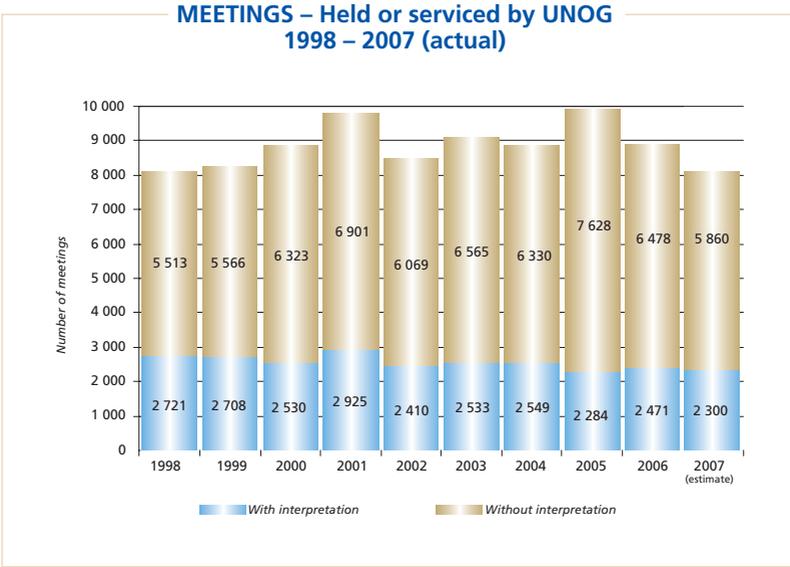
A platform for multilateral dialogue and decision-making

UNOG provides not only the location at which negotiators work on issues that concern the international community, but also the conference planning, coordination and servicing functions required to ensure that meetings are properly scheduled and supported. To facilitate the multilateral process, UNOG remains firmly committed to maintaining the best possible balance of the four goals of conference management: quality, quantity, timeliness and cost-effectiveness. In addition, the programme of

MEETINGS – Principal Users in 2007



8 160 meetings with and without interpretation (estimate)
Source : e-Meets



modernization and renovation of conference rooms is progressing, thereby improving the work conditions of delegates. In this context, conference rooms III, VII, XXI and XXVII have been completely revamped and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. UNOG continues to work in close cooperation with permanent missions in Geneva for the renovation of rooms of historical value. Following renovations funded by the Government of Azerbaijan, conference room A-206 was inaugurated by the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, on 18 May 2007. Since its inauguration, the room is referred to as the Azerbaijan Room.

From 28 February to 1 March 2007, the Director-General of UNOG visited Madrid in order to sign – on behalf of the United Nations – with the Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé an agreement regarding the gift of the Spanish Kingdom to UNOG. The gift consists of the full renovation of one of the largest conference rooms at UNOG (room XX) and a major work of art by the renowned modern Spanish artist Miguel Barceló. The contribution of Spain is among the biggest donations ever by a Member State to the Organization. In accordance with established UNOG practice of

naming newly refurbished conference rooms after the respective Member State donor or after a key thematic concept on the agenda of the United Nations, conference room XX will be officially inaugurated as the Human Rights–Alliance of Civilizations Room in January 2008.

Global centre for meetings

In 2007, UNOG provided conference and documentation support to a large number of intergovernmental and other meetings. One of the highlights of the year was the servicing of the Global Compact Leaders Summit hosted by UNOG in July 2007, in which some 1,000 top executives of 150 companies from around the world, including 30 from the “Fortune Global 500”, heads of international labour organizations, civil society and United Nations agencies, in addition to select government officials, participated.

UNOG has had to address the increased workload resulting from the servicing of HRC during its first year of operation. Appropriate management of this additional workload required extensive planning and coordination with the substantive secretariats and careful study of the resource implications. Servicing the Council to the satisfaction of the Member States will require reinforcing the resources of the UNOG Conference Services Division, which have remained at the same level since 1992 under zero nominal growth.

In addition to the regular and special sessions as well as the organizational and informal meetings of HRC, meetings serviced by UNOG included: the Conference on Disarmament; the Biological Weapons and the Conventional Weapons Conventions; sessions of the ILC; the International Labour Organization (ILO) General Conference; the World Health Organization (WHO) Annual Assembly; the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) Governing Council; various human rights treaty bodies; the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the substantive session of ECOSOC; the Follow-up Committee to monitor the implementation of the Greentree Agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria; and the Economic Commission for Europe and its committees.

UNOG remains a prime interlocutor for Governments offering to host United Nations conferences and advises them on the necessary physical and human resource requirements for the holding of such conferences. UNOG successfully coordinated and provided such services to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina (March 2007); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn, Germany (May 2007); the UNCCD Conference of the Parties in Madrid (September 2007); the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties (8MSP) Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Amman (November 2007); and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia (December 2007). These activities reinforce links between the United Nations and its Member States in their joint efforts to find solutions to the problems confronting the international community.

UNOG's overall planning accuracy factor, the ratio of services planned against services used, was 87 per cent in 2007. UNOG serviced an estimated total of 8,160 meetings in 2007.

The Electronic Meeting Planning and Resource Allocation System (e-Meets) database for the management of meetings, as mandated by the General Assembly, has been used by all secretariats of meetings, permanent missions and specialized agencies to submit requests for meetings and facilities electronically. The fully operational interface between the database and the calendar of the UNOG website now automatically transfers relevant meetings data in both English and French to the UNOG Web Calendar. Permanent missions and other entities thus have access to the most up-to-date information about activities and events scheduled at the Palais des Nations.

Harmonizing conference services

2007 was the sixth year of the reform process for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM). The UNOG Conference Services Division is a full partner in the Department's integrated

global management initiative to achieve coordination and standardization for a more efficient use of resources.

In June 2007, UNOG hosted the eighth Coordination Meeting of Senior Conference Managers. The meeting brought together senior conference service staff from across duty stations for information sharing, exchanges of experience and discussions of issues of common concern. This meeting focused on the implementation of initiatives to apply integrated global management of conference services across United Nations duty stations, through the harmonization of policies, practices and procedures, while taking into account each duty station's specificities.

Optimizing our resources and delivering better are key priorities for UNOG. As part of its continuous improvement efforts and in line with decisions relating to the reform of DGACM, UNOG carried out five client satisfaction surveys during some important conferences held at the Palais des Nations and elsewhere. The results of these surveys, which showed an overall satisfaction with UNOG's provision of conference services, serve as a valuable resource for the planning of future events.

As part of the implementation of the 2006 Dalberg Global Information Technology Study of DGACM, UNOG hosted the Integrated Conference Management Service (iCMS) Substantive Working Group meeting. UNOG also participated in DGACM's Information Technology Governance Board (ITGB), which supports the harmonization of business processes across duty stations by focusing on consistency and cost-effectiveness. ITGB gave UNOG the lead in developing a new Document Planning and Processing (DPP) system, which will be a comprehensive global system integrated with software systems for meetings management, interpretation assignment and computer-assisted translation.

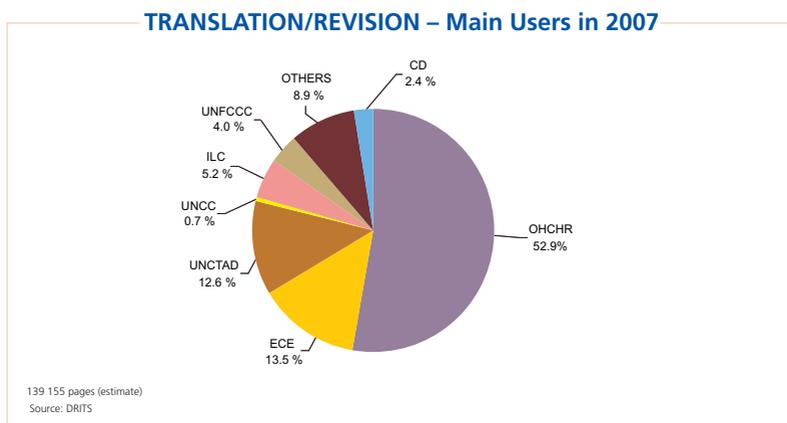
Facilitating multilingual dialogue

In 2007, UNOG chaired the United Nations Terminology Coordination Board for the second time. The Board aims to harmonize terminology among international organizations, enrich and consolidate the United Nations terminology database UNTERM (unterm.un.org) and facilitate access to it.

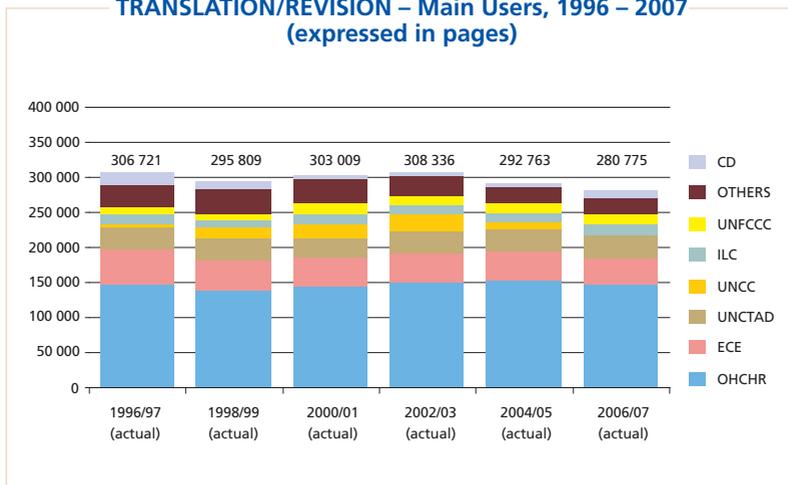
The project's first priority is official denominations and nomenclature in all six official languages.

UNOG continued to forge cooperation and sharing of information between different institutions in the area of language services. In January 2007, UNOG hosted the annual forum of the International Permanent Conference of University Institutes of Translators and Interpreters (CIUTI) on the theme "New Needs, New Translators". In April 2007, UNOG organized and served as the secretariat of the Interagency Meeting on Terminology and Computer-Assisted Translation (JIAMCATT). In June 2007, representatives of 55 organizations attended the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP), which took place at UNOG. IAMLADP adopted a framework for coordinated outreach to universities and enhancing training for linguists working in international organizations.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/265, UNOG organized a series of language-specific informational meetings between Member States and representatives of the UNOG language services. Held in September and October 2007, the meetings were an opportunity for Member States to consult on the improvement of the language services and to establish additional channels for communication on the terminology used and the quality of services rendered.



TRANSLATION/REVISION – Main Users, 1996 – 2007 (expressed in pages)



In response to the positive feedback from delegates, UNOG printed additional copies of its 2005 booklet entitled “Advice for Participants at Meetings with Interpretation”. The booklet has proven to be an essential guide for delegates to the functioning of the interpretation services in the six official languages of the United Nations.



Delivering a global message

Among the key challenges and priorities of the United Nations is to communicate global messages to local audiences worldwide, bringing the work of the Organization closer to the people it serves. The United Nations Information Service (UNIS) at Geneva serves as the voice of UNOG, functioning as its primary news centre in building awareness of the work of the Organization, its scope, and the impact of its many programmes and policies. UNIS has placed a particular emphasis on peace and security, development and human rights, while concentrating on messages reflecting the work of the United Nations family in Geneva. Sharing a home-base with the Conference on Disarmament, HRC and numerous humanitarian agencies, the Service is well placed to assist in delivering messages on these three cross-cutting themes, which affect every aspect of the Organization's work. Throughout 2007, building on a coordinated, system-wide communications strategy, UNIS focused on making better use of technologies and consolidating an expanded grass-roots support base. Over the past year, UNOG also continued to play a key role in providing media support in the launch of reports; a significant one among them was the mid-point progress report on MDGs launched at the start of this year's substantive session of ECOSOC in July.

Reporting the events

Geneva was the venue for a number of high-profile events in 2007; chief among them were those surrounding the first anniversary of HRC in June during which its members made history by adopting an institution-building package providing a road map on how the new United Nations body will conduct its work for years to come. Through this agreement, the Council

will now meet throughout the year as a quasi-standing body with a new agenda providing it with the opportunity to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations wherever they occur. Given the increased workload resulting from servicing the Council, UNIS has had to redouble its efforts within its existing resources to meet the needs of this growing institution to the satisfaction of the Council's members and observers. The services rendered have included providing press coverage in English and French, producing television and radio reports, providing regular, timely information on the Council's activities to journalists, and providing webcasting services for public formal meetings.

Activities of HRC, of OHCHR and of the human rights treaty bodies remained at the forefront of issues in Geneva covered by the media and were a key priority for UNIS. In total, UNOG produced 441 press releases related to the issue of human rights, of which 67 were summaries of Council meetings held during the year.

The Secretary-General's inaugural visit to Switzerland in April also yielded considerable media attention from Swiss daily newspapers. The Secretary-General's praise for the Swiss Government's active and firm support for UNOG was featured prominently. The Secretary-General's visit to Geneva in July also generated significant press coverage, in particular his message to the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC. Much of the international press covering the event in Geneva echoed the Secretary-General's central message calling for wealthy countries to honour their pledges with regard to MDGs.

Collaborating with the media

The link between the United Nations and the media remains crucial to delivering better the messages originating from various United Nations entities. Some 200 resident correspondents are accredited to UNOG on an annual basis, and several hundred more on temporary assignments. The international media are kept abreast of new developments and ongoing activities in the global arena through bi-weekly press briefings chaired by UNOG and attended by spokespersons from United Nations funds, programmes and agencies.

UNOG also organizes individual press conferences with visiting officials and experts on a host of issues. A total of 189 such specialized press conferences were organized during 2007. Among these were three press conferences for the Secretary-General – one during his first official visit to Bern in April and two during his visits to Geneva in July – as well as press conferences by: the Director-General of UNOG; Rogelio Pflirter, Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on disarmament problems; High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour on her trip to Central Asia; John Holmes, Emergency Relief Coordinator, to report on the 2007 consolidated humanitarian appeals; Iraq's Foreign Minister, Hoshyar Zebari, and High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres on the occasion of the UNHCR Iraq Conference; Archbishop Desmond Tutu in his capacity as head of the High-Level Fact-Finding Mission to Beit Hanoun (northern Gaza), as well as Nobel Peace Laureate Jody William as head of the HRC High-Level Mission to Darfur. In addition, UNOG organized and chaired numerous press briefings for the President of HRC and special rapporteurs reporting to it.

UNOG collaborates with radio and television broadcasters who serve as vital re-disseminators of the messages of the United Nations. In this regard, UNOG provides extensive coverage to broadcasters through United Nations TV and Radio, and through UNIFEED, a satellite transmission service for television broadcasters to access news material from United Nations organizations around the world. UNOG services have also continued to produce several features and video compilations on issues ranging from meeting humanitarian needs in Burundi to housing in Bahrain. Similarly, audio material on major United Nations events and activities in Geneva are transmitted for use by United Nations Radio in New York and for broadcast by radio stations around the world. Major United Nations meetings, including all press conferences and the bi-weekly press briefings at the Palais des Nations, are recorded.

The world witnessed numerous natural catastrophes and human-made disasters throughout the year, which were featured regularly at UNOG bi-weekly press briefings. Among these were the floods in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South-East Asia, the earthquake in Peru and the continuing humanitarian crisis in the Sudanese region of Darfur, which consistently made the headlines throughout the year.

UNOG also strengthened its media monitoring services, providing to senior staff within the United Nations system daily reports and analyses by Geneva-based and international media of local events, as well as those focusing on activities of the United Nations and its agencies located in Geneva. These included media reports produced during the meetings of HRC, the 2007 substantive session of ECOSOC and the official visits of the Secretary-General to Switzerland. Media reports were also produced for the Global Compact Leaders Summit and the launch of the progress report on MDGs.

Reaching out to the public

Throughout the year, UNIS organized 59 information programmes intended to provide a better understanding of the work of the United Nations and its constituents based in Geneva. These programmes are tailored for students, diplomats, public servants and representatives of NGOs and other associations coming from all over the world. Among the themes discussed in these programmes last year were human rights, humanitarian affairs, disarmament, peacekeeping, the reform of the Organization and MDGs.

On 29 January 2007, UNOG was involved, in close cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Israel, in the preparation of an event that marked the second annual observance of the International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust, which was attended by more than 700 participants highlighting the central theme "Remembrance and Beyond". In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, UNOG commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November 2007. On 7 April 2007, UNOG held an event, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda and the International Peacebuilding Alliance, to mark the International Day for the Commemoration of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The presentations included personal testimonies from two survivors of the genocide. In keeping with the important tradition of previous years, UNOG organized the International Day of Peacekeepers, which was commemorated on 1 June 2007 to pay tribute to the bravery and dedication of the thousands of men and women who

currently serve as United Nations peacekeepers and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the service of peace. In addition, UNOG co-organized an event with the International Movement ATD Fourth World in observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, marked on 17 October 2007.

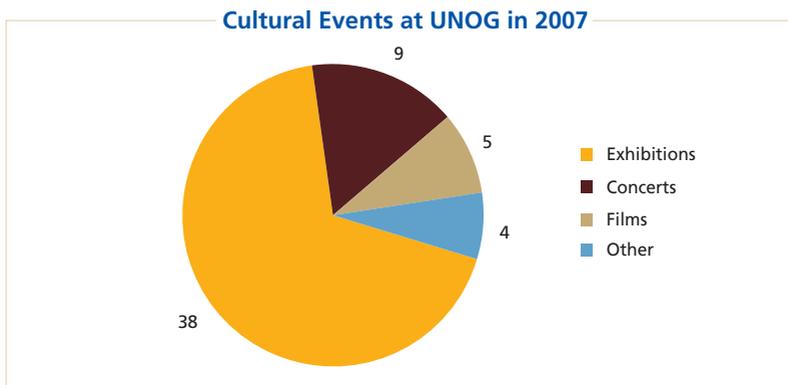
Building on a long-standing tradition, UNOG coordinated its three-week annual Graduate Study Programme aimed at involving young people in the work of the Organization. In 2007, 68 outstanding postgraduate students from 35 countries were selected to take part in the forty-fifth Graduate Study Programme under the heading “The UN: United for Peace, Development and Human Rights”. At the end of their discussions, the participants formulated their conclusions and proposals in a comprehensive report on the theme “Making Poverty History”, which offered a constructive critique of the Organization and proposed recommendations.

Guided tours organized by the UNOG Visitors’ Service serve as an important public outreach tool that allows close to 100,000 visitors who come to UNOG every year to gain a better understanding of the work and vision of the United Nations, and also provides an opportunity to see where the major decisions that affect humankind are made. A survey conducted by the Visitors’ Service at the end of 2006 revealed that visitors find the guided tour to be a rewarding and informative experience.

Promoting dialogue among civilizations

The UNOG Cultural Activities Programme has continued to promote the United Nations agenda of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations through various artistic exchanges throughout the year. The arts and other forms of cultural expression are among the most effective tools to build respect among cultures and to improve understanding among peoples and nations. This interaction forms the basis for an environment where all opinions can be heard in order to establish a constructive dialogue for formulating responses to the complex challenges of our times. As in previous years, the active participation of Member States and others in the UNOG Cultural Activities Programme was testimony to their strong support for fostering better interaction among cultures.

Among the 56 events organized this year were documentary exhibitions on topics related to children's and refugees' protection, gender, racism and environmental issues, as well as mine action and poverty alleviation. Among these was an exhibition entitled "Cartooning for Peace", which officially opened at the Palais des Nations in March 2007. The exhibit, originating from an initiative launched on 16 October 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, was conceived by the French cartoonist Plantu and featured works from 12 of the most renowned political cartoonists from all over the world. The exhibit aimed to demonstrate the power of cartoons and how they could contribute to the promotion of peace and tolerance. A parallel exhibition presented a selection of editorial cartoons, which dated back to the League of Nations.



The UNOG website

The UNOG website (www.unog.ch) continues to be an indispensable information tool for all those interested in the work of the Organization, including members of permanent missions, conference delegates, the general public and United Nations staff. It serves as a valuable resource for keeping abreast of the latest developments regarding UNOG activities. The usage of the UNOG website has continued to increase steadily as demonstrated by statistics which show a significant rise in the number of individual visitors to the site, number of visits and number of pages accessed.

Usage statistics for the UNOG website

	2006	2007
Number of unique visitors	330 681	345 248
Number of visits	574 490	590 822
Number of pages accessed	6 173 607	9 392 815

Since its redevelopment last year, the Disarmament pages have become a reference point for finding information on the Conference on Disarmament and other disarmament issues such as conventions related to disarmament, including the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention (APLC), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and others. UNOG has carried on its efforts to expand and improve the Disarmament web pages. The architecture of the Disarmament web page of the UNOG website has been completely reorganized to improve the visibility of the information provided. In addition, a "restricted area" (Extranet) has been developed and implemented for the BWC and the CCW, as requested by the States Parties to those conventions. The positive reaction of many users, who have expressed satisfaction and held up the website as a model of its kind, has been particularly encouraging. Its current contents, while essentially geared towards the professional user, also includes practical information for the public at large.

The UNOG website also offers a direct link to the webcast service, which covers HRC meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Enhancements in graphic design and ergonomics have been developed and implemented to improve the visibility of some features, such as press releases, announcements and the search field. Finally, in October 2007, UNOG launched a public survey offering visitors to the UNOG website the possibility to provide their feedback directly online. This public survey is anonymous and the responses received will be instrumental in the further development of the website.

The UNOG website is continuing to provide links to the calendar of meetings available on the websites of United Nations entities with a presence in Geneva. Wherever a calendar of meetings is not available, a link is available

directly to the home page of that organization. In view of the request of the Diplomatic Committee, efforts are continuing to expand these links on the UNOG website and to encourage all United Nations system organizations with a presence in Geneva to create a meetings calendar on their respective websites, after which a link would be inserted in the UNOG website as soon as it is made available.

Efficacy and effectiveness through organizational management

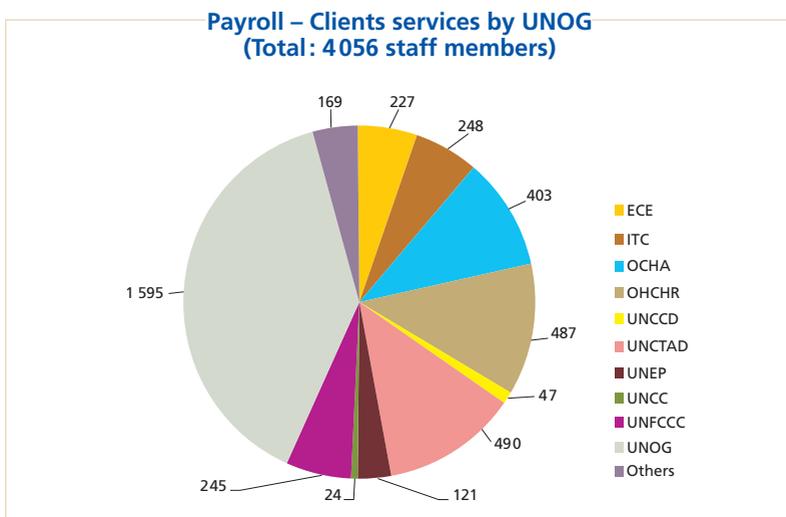
The wide range of support services provided in the areas of finance, human resources, safety and security, staff development and travel are the core “back-stage” activities through which UNOG facilitates the Organization’s achievements in the service of peace, development and human rights. The services provided by UNOG also include the maintenance of the 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 main building has been in operation since 1936. The latest building was completed in 1973. While superficially the main building and its annexes may appear structurally sound, they are slowly losing their functionality. Despite the implementation of a limited, phased renovation plan of some conference rooms and select key equipment, UNOG is experiencing a variety of technical problems in servicing all clients in a cost-effective manner. Overcrowding of offices and inadequate lighting affect the ability of the 3,500 staff working at the Palais des Nations to provide the best possible support to Member States. The structure and size of the Palais make it impossible to mitigate these adverse effects through temporary or ad hoc solutions.

Providing financial support services

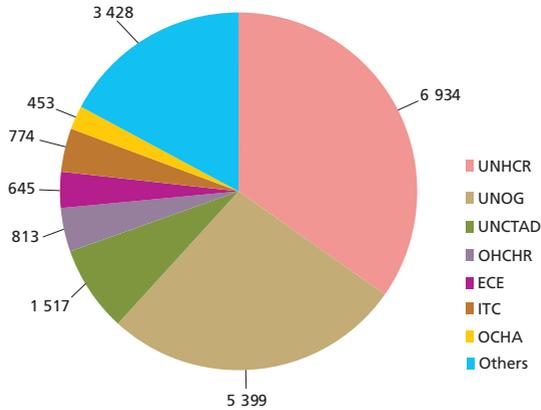
UNOG provides core financial support services to more than 20 Geneva-based organizations and departments, as well as entities located in Bonn, Germany and Turin, Italy. Services provided and expenditures incurred are financed from the regular budget and extrabudgetary sources of the Organization. UNOG managed regular budget funds worth US\$ 258 million in 2007. The size of extrabudgetary activities administered by UNOG,

including areas such as humanitarian affairs, disaster relief and human rights, have increased significantly over the past years from US\$ 122 million in 1999 to US\$ 364 million in 2006, escalating the demand for financial service support from UNOG. The UNOG Treasury managed an average number of 10,926 payment transactions per month for both regular and extrabudgetary activities, with an average monthly value disbursement of US\$ 60.7 million, of which US\$ 33.4 million pertained to extrabudgetary activities. As at August 2007, there were 4,056 staff members on the UNOG payroll, including 650 staff members stationed outside Geneva at 92 locations worldwide. The medical insurance services administered by UNOG covered 19,963 members of which 4,733 were retirees.

During 2007, UNOG has provided comments and input through the focus groups established under the Steering Committee for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by the year 2010. The Steering Group has worked towards developing accounting policies and establishing coordination to support consistency and comparability across the United Nations system, as well as ensuring IPSAS compliance. Special attention has also been given to providing training workshops to strengthen the awareness of staff in risk management, particularly for those performing financial and administrative duties.



**Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accident
Entities serviced by UNOG/FRMS
(Total 19 963 members including 4 733 retirees)**



Procurement through a common framework

UNOG serves as the secretariat of the Common Procurement Activities Group (CPAG), consisting of 11 international organizations, which has been instrumental in the consolidation of procurement activities among Geneva-based United Nations entities. CPAG provides a valuable forum for coordinating procurement activities with a view to promoting the standardization of policies and procedures, and for making full use of economies of scale. In addition, 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. During the past 12 months, UNOG established some 3,400 contracts worth over US\$ 43 million, processed some 19,300 travel authorizations worth US\$ 24.5 million, settled 5,500 travel claims, provided over 3,800 cost estimates, secured some 4,200 visas, and handled approximately 18,000 United Nations official documents for organizations and agencies based in Geneva and other locations.

UNOG continues to explore all avenues towards a more efficient use of available resources. As a result of negotiations undertaken with 21 major airlines, UNOG achieved a cost avoidance of 19.5 per cent in 2006, as compared to 2005. Further negotiations should yield lower transportation costs on major routes to Geneva. Significant cost avoidances were achieved for electricity (amounting to US\$ 650,000), paper (US\$ 466,000), toner (US\$ 300,000), as well as heating oil (US\$ 100,000).

Building a versatile and multi-skilled staff

The effective management of its staff will define the Organization's ability to achieve its global objectives. As the United Nations is called on to undertake ever-more complex tasks in more regions of the world, it is becoming increasingly important for its staff to further develop skills through training to be able to adapt to the changing realities in the work of the Organization and to meet the expectations of Member States.

In this context, UNOG continues to support the Organization-wide reform programme, which is designed to foster a culture of continuous learning and high performance, by offering a wide range of staff development and training, as well as career support programmes. These include a variety of training programmes, including language courses, leadership management and supervisory skills, communication and professional effectiveness among others. UNOG is already fully participating in the managed reassignment programme through which members of certain categories of staff are offered an opportunity for mobility. UNOG provides human resources services to 80 offices worldwide, including field offices of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and OHCHR. These cover some 3,500 staff members in more than 30 departments and offices based in Geneva; Bonn, Germany; and Turin, Italy, as well as some 1,500 consultants and individual contractors. Special arrangements allow services to be provided on a 24-hour basis in case of emergencies.

Balancing security and safety measures

The Director-General, in his capacity as Designated Security Official for Switzerland, through the UNOG Security and Safety Service, has further enhanced cooperation and communication with the host country, as well as with the Geneva-based Organizations of the United Nations Common System, on security and safety issues. As always, UNOG aims to preserve the delicate balance between maintaining the highest standards of security and a policy of openness. It strives to provide adequate security coverage at the Palais des Nations and for missions abroad.

Most of the Headquarters Minimum Operating Security Standards (H-MOSS) projects designed to strengthen the security of the premises have been completed. They include the new Pregny and Nations entrances, the armoury, the Control Operations Centre, the public address system and the reinforcement of the perimeter fences. A unique nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical detection and crisis response capacity has also been put in place. Some projects are still under way, such as access control, intrusion detection, as well as fire prevention and detection. The construction of a new building to accommodate mail and pouch deliveries and the introduction of a 25-metre stand-off zone around the buildings will be implemented in the coming months.

Better coordination of security procedures for United Nations entities based in Geneva, most importantly of security access and other related measures, would have a positive effect on the work of the diplomatic community.

The exchanges of security-related information with the Federal Authorities, as well as the relationship with the Gendarmerie and Police in Geneva have been enhanced during the course of 2007. Crisis management exercises were organized with the Security Focal Points of the various Geneva-based organizations and agencies in order to put the responsiveness of existing security schemes to the test. The Swiss Authorities were also involved in the exercise. A full evacuation exercise was performed under the supervision of the Director-General in January 2007 for the Palais des Nations and all annexes.

Contributing to the greening of the United Nations

The dilapidated state of the Palais des Nations in Geneva is undermining the efforts of UNOG to provide mandated services, ensure climate-neutral operations and secure vital institutional memory, and it adds significantly to running and maintenance costs. The Palais des Nations must be safeguarded to enable it to continue serving Member States and to protect the important legacy that it embodies.

As noted in the introduction, a comprehensive renovation and refurbishment plan for the Palais des Nations is also a prerequisite for contributing to the “Greening of the United Nations” initiative. Inadequate insulation, outdated windows, inefficient heating methods in the winter period and a lack of automated lighting devices to limit consumption causes significant financial losses and unnecessarily excessive carbon emissions. Nonetheless, UNOG has made every effort to contribute to the Secretary-General’s “Greening of the United Nations” initiative, as much as possible through regular maintenance and upkeep of the building and its services.

UNOG is already engaged in discussions with its main energy provider regarding the possible implementation of a project to utilize water from Lake Geneva as an alternative system for cooling its buildings. It has also begun discussing environmental issues with the heads of the Geneva-based funds, programmes and agencies with a view to devising together practical ways to contribute to making the United Nations more climate-neutral. However, any energy-saving mechanism would require the insulation of the buildings at the Palais des Nations premises to be reinforced.

The Directors-General of UNOG and of UNEP have met, and preliminary discussions have taken place between UNOG and UNEP for an environmental audit to take place at UNOG, which would provide an analysis of issues such as the use of electricity, paper, etc. and would make concrete recommendations.

Discussions are currently under way in CPAG with regard to the implementation of the greater use of recycled paper in the workplace.

Ensuring consolidated information technology services

UNOG has further extended the range of information and communication technology services provided to staff, conference participants and other visitors. One of the highlights of 2007 was the installation of Voice-over-IP technology at OHCHR, making its staff the first across all duty stations to benefit from features such as desk-to-desk videoconferencing and the “One UN Number” system, where mobile staff members can be reached under one fixed extension regardless of their physical location. The technology is expected to evolve as a common feature for all UNOG clients in the foreseeable future. The recent remote installation of similar voice and data technology in the Sudan by UNOG staff has demonstrated that UNOG has established itself as a centre of expertise for this technology.

In parallel to this, and in line with the Secretariat-wide enterprise network initiative, UNOG has further strengthened network access control, thereby reducing the risk of intrusion from malicious software to the network, while at the same time maintaining the flexibility that is required for an entity that needs to reach out to the public on a daily basis.

Preparations are under way for the construction of a new data centre, which will further enhance the information and communication technology infrastructure of UNOG. UNOG will also contribute in the Secretariat-wide installation of a Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS), using industry-wide established best practices for Information Technology service management.



Meeting current and future information needs

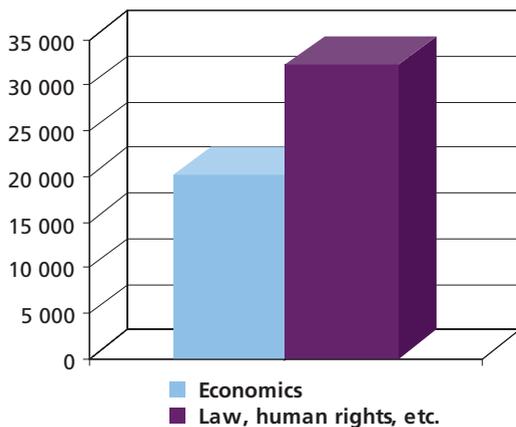
The UNOG Library makes every effort to fully respond to the information needs of its users. In line with this, UNOG has continued to develop and expand its collections, as well as implement a new preservation and dissemination policy. As the custodian of the League of Nations and United Nations most precious documents and archives, UNOG is committed to maintaining the integrity of its collections despite environmental hazards and inadequate resources, which continue to threaten the valuable institutional memory of the Organization.

Developing better access to information

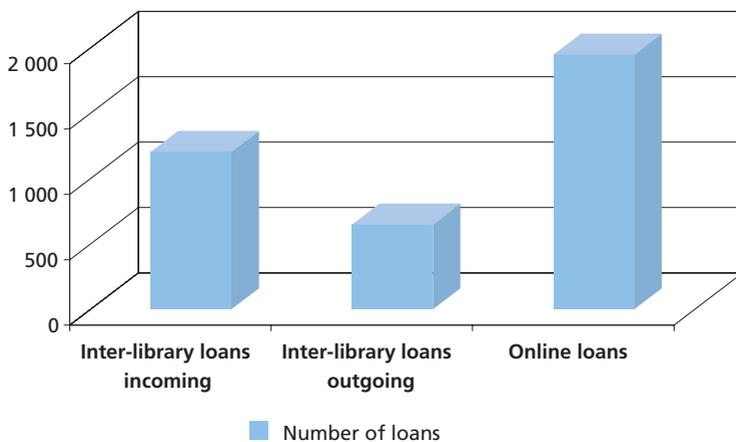
UNOG acquires through purchases, gifts and exchanges on average approximately 2,800 monographs per year in all areas of interest to the United Nations. In 2007, UNOG has acquired approximately 3,500 monographs in its collection and processed around 2,500 additional books for other United Nations offices in Geneva. The UNOG Library also indexed some 4,660 United Nations documents and publications during 2007. UNOG now subscribes and makes available to its users around 30 databases. Thanks to a new resource entitled the "A to Z List", users have a single point of access for all the serials available on the online library, and to the electronic resources to which it subscribes (26,186 titles altogether).

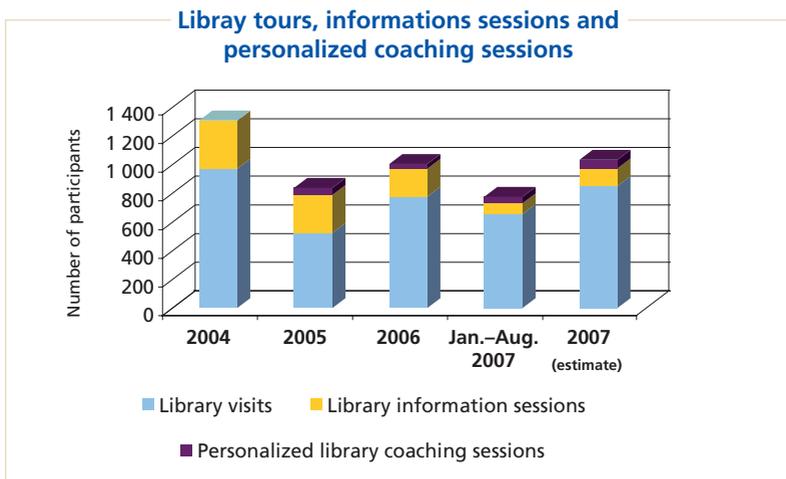
The UNOG Library is called upon to advise and assist in the elaboration of specialized thesauri and other bibliographic tools. A highlight activity in 2007 was the contribution by UNOG to a peacebuilding project by participating in research undertaken for a project initiated by GIAN and the Graduate Institute of International Studies of Geneva. As a result, a common lexicon in the field of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction was produced and will be published at the beginning of 2008.

Electronic resources consultations by area



Inter-library loans and local online loans (2006–2007)





Rapid access to information is a constant challenge to libraries. To respond to this challenge, UNOG Library has expanded both its inter-library loans thanks to the network of libraries (Library Network of Western Switzerland – RERO), and its own internal service of local online loans.

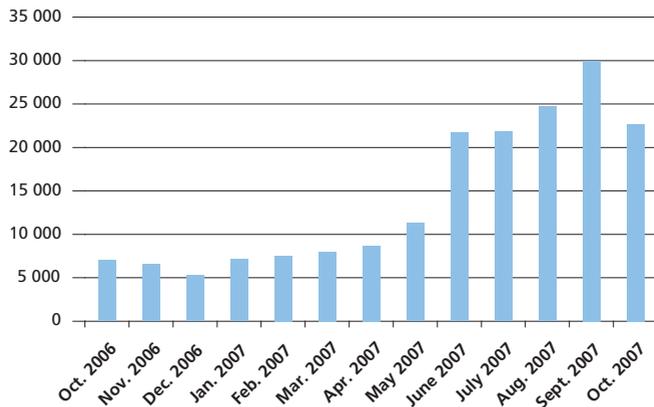
UNOG has launched a new programme entitled “Personal Knowledge Management” (PKM) in an effort to assist staff members to effectively sift through the increasing volume of information available to them, to find the information that they are searching for more effectively as well as from the best and most authoritative sources, and to facilitate their access to information resources needed for their work. Appropriately, the UNOG Library’s current message to its clients is “save time, ask a librarian”! It is expected that UNOG, which already offers a range of library information sessions to the permanent missions, will expand its PKM programme to interested missions during the course of 2008.

Preserving historical legacy

UNOG pursues its efforts to preserve the institutional memory of the United Nations and to pass it on to future generations. It is the proud custodian of 12 kilometres of historical archives. However, the preservation of this documentation, some of which is 100 years old, remains a serious concern for UNOG, particularly in the context of the latest flooding in June 2007 that damaged 300 linear metres of archives (over 12 tons). Frequent flooding of the archives area has already damaged thousands of documents. Although UNOG has been able until now to save the documents from destruction whenever water damage occurred in its archives stacks, a long-term solution providing adequate storage space is urgently needed. The current storage facilities do not conform to international standards, and the collections are considered in danger. This threatens the unique institutional memory of the United Nations, which in turn also affects the services provided to Member States.

In parallel to safekeeping paper collections, efforts have continued to digitize and provide online access to these invaluable documents. These full-texts and 25,000 archival descriptions can be consulted online through the archives catalogue. In 2007, around 140,000 pages of the catalogue were consulted as opposed to 65,000 in the previous year. UNOG is continuing to digitize historical documents of the Commission on Human Rights. The majority of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board reports in English and French, which date back to the Board's inception in 1965, have been digitized. These documents are now available online through the United Nations Libraries online catalogue and the Official Documents System (ODS).

Number of archives catalogue pages consulted via the Internet





Looking ahead

The United Nations brings together a unique wealth of expertise and resources in order to address more effectively today's global threats and complex challenges. In line with the Secretary-General's vision of a stronger United Nations through enhanced system-wide coherence, UNOG has strived to support efforts to strengthen cooperation among the United Nations family of organizations, its Secretariat departments, funds, programmes and agencies. This includes better information sharing, more frequent joint planning and closer coordination, which should enable all United Nations entities to utilize their resources more effectively and efficiently and have a more meaningful impact. In this regard, UNOG plans to engage further 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. Indeed, as emphasized by the Secretary-General, this is the essence of system-wide coherence.

The year ahead will also present an opportunity to build on the Secretary-General's endeavours in the areas of combating climate change, reforming management and revitalizing the United Nations system. To play its role fully, the United Nations Secretariat needs to be better equipped and more in line with today's new operational realities. The world has changed and so must the United Nations if it is to meet the growing demands and expectations of Member States. UNOG, therefore, will also continue to do its share in supporting Secretariat-wide reform efforts.

Another priority for UNOG during the upcoming year will be to encourage the refurbishment and renovation of the Palais des Nations. The Secretary-General is determined not only make the Organization's Headquarters climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable but also ensure that all United Nations buildings at all duty stations are energy

efficient. The renovation of the Palais des Nations will be the central focus of UNOG efforts to contribute effectively towards the “Greening of the United Nations” initiative.

In all these areas, UNOG looks forward to working together with its partners to promote a stronger sense of common purpose. 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 solid basis for a constructive dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders. Through its regular exchanges, UNOG will continue to convey the Secretary-General’s plans and aspirations to the diplomatic community in Geneva, as well as to build on its partnerships with external partners to help achieve internationally agreed goals in the fields of peace, development and human rights.

