

a means to empower women, and requested UNDP to align reporting of the gender equality strategy 2014–2017 with the annual reporting of the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017, and to report to the Executive Board on the implementation, performance and results of the gender equality strategy, beginning at its annual session 2015.

South-South cooperation

UNDP was a strong supporter of South-South cooperation (see p. 000), through its hosting of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and its own operational work to promote South-South and triangular initiatives. During the first regular session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, the Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation presented the strategic framework of the Office for 2014–2017 [DP/CF/SSC/5], which focused on helping Member States make informed decisions on South-South and triangular cooperation; strengthening South-South cooperation within the UN system; and assisting partners in developing South-South cooperation policies, plans and partnerships. The Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP had collaborated in defining a clear division of labour, as reflected in the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017 and in the strategic framework of the Office for 2014–2017.

On 31 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)], the Executive Board took note of and approved the strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation 2014–2017.

Strategic plan 2014–2017

The year 2014 was critical for UNDP, as it began to implement its strategic plan 2014–2017 [YUN 2013, p. 847]—the bedrock of its efforts to make UNDP a more focused, results-driven, effective and efficient organization—in alignment with the principles of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, as laid out in General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859]. At the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, the UNDP Administrator informed the Board that UNDP was pursuing rigorous implementation of its strategic plan 2014–2017, including the integrated results and resources framework, which UNDP was in process of populating with baselines, annual milestones and multi-year targets.

On 27 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2014/11)], the Executive Board took note of the progress towards finalizing the integrated results and resources framework of the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017 and affirmed that the framework had been designed in conformity with results-based management principles. The Board further affirmed that the results contained in the framework of the strategic plan would be achieved

with the assistance of UNDP programmes in the respective countries, as well as of UNDP regional and global programmes. It requested UNDP to ensure that any relevant indicators and targets of the integrated results and resources framework were made consistent with the sustainable development goals in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and called on UNDP to apply the integrated results and resources framework as soon as possible and to keep the Board informed on progress and challenges encountered in that process.

Evaluation

At the first regular session of the Executive Board, the Director of the UNDP Evaluation Office presented the medium-term evaluation plan 2014–2017 [DP/2014/5]. The report discussed the evaluations conducted by the Office during that four-year period, which fell into three categories: programmatic evaluations, which assessed development results at the country level; thematic evaluations, which were planned in alignment with the key outcomes of the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017 and ensured that critical issues for each outcome were addressed; and other evaluations, such as the evaluation of the joint Global Environment Facility/UNDP Small Grants Programme.

On 30 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/4)], the Executive Board, emphasizing the need to safeguard the independence of the UNDP Evaluation Office, approved a change of name from the UNDP Evaluation Office to the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office. It also took note of the medium-term evaluation plan and requested that the management of UNDP allocate adequate and timely funding for the full implementation of the plan.

At the annual session of the Executive Board, the Director of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office presented the annual report on evaluation 2013 [DP/2014/14], which provided an overview of the progress made by UNDP and associated funds and programmes in fulfilling the evaluation functions outlined in the UNDP evaluation policy. The report also presented the planned programme of work for 2014 and 2015. In 2013, expenditures by the UNDP Evaluation Office totalled \$8.278 million, of which \$7.624 million was from regular resources and \$655,000 from other resources. This represented an increase of 4.3 per cent from 2011. Ninety-four per cent of the core funding was spent. The Office completed and presented three thematic evaluations to the Board in 2013: the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to poverty reduction (first regular session); the evaluation of the UNDP role in conflict-affected countries (first regular session); and the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation (annual session). Seven programmatic evaluations

were presented to the Board at its annual session: the evaluation of the UNDP strategic plan 2008–2013; the evaluation of the fourth global programme; and evaluations of the regional programmes for Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Country-level evaluations, termed as assessments of development results, were carried out in Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Kenya and Sierra Leone.

On 26 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/14)], the Board urged UNDP to address in a timely manner the findings and recommendations from the annual report on evaluation 2013, with a view towards improving programme performance, effectiveness and efficiency. It also requested UNDP to ensure that evaluation findings were fully considered and used in preparing key policies, strategies and programmes, and approved the revised programme of work for 2014 and the proposed programme of work for 2015 of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office.

Financial and administrative matters

In January, the UNDP Director, Bureau of Management, presented to the first regular session of the Executive Board a report [DP/2014/6] on the response to decision 2013/28 of the Board on additional resources for security measures [YUN 2013, p. 850]. On 31 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)], the Executive Board took note of that response.

At its second regular session in September, the Board considered a report by the UNDP Administrator [DP/2014/20/Add.1] that provided detailed information on the financial performance in 2013 of UNDP regular resources, other resources, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which was established by the General Assembly and administered by UNDP. The data presented in the report agreed with the figures reflected in the annual review of the financial situation for 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 849].

The UNDP Administrator, in the annual review of the financial situation [DP/2015/26], reported that in 2014, UNDP maintained a positive net asset position on its balance sheet, and achieved regular resources year-end liquidity above the threshold requested by the Executive Board. Total UNDP revenue, however, decreased by 3 per cent to \$5 billion from \$5.15 billion in 2013. Total expenses rose slightly, to \$5.31 billion, compared to \$5.24 billion in 2013. Contributions to regular resources decreased by 11 per cent to \$0.79 billion from \$0.89 billion in 2013, including \$0.01 billion from programme country governments. A total of \$0.02 billion from several donors was received in 2014. Regular resources expenses decreased by 6 per cent to \$0.94 billion, from \$0.99 billion in 2013. Other resources contributions fell by 1 per cent during the year, to \$3.92 billion from \$3.94 billion in 2013.

Regular funding commitments to UNDP

A July report [DP/2014/21] provided information on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2014 and onward, as well as a summary of the income for regular and other resources received in 2013. The report stated that in 2013, contributions to regular resources increased by 5.9 per cent to \$895.7 million from \$846.1 million in 2012 due to delayed payments budgeted for 2012 but received in 2013. Fifty-six Member States contributed to regular resources in 2013, compared to 50 countries in 2012. Total contributions (regular and other resources) to UNDP, including \$0.14 billion for reimbursable support services, remained at \$4.83 billion. Excluding reimbursable services, total contributions to UNDP increased from \$4.64 billion in 2012 to \$4.69 billion in 2013.

As of July 2014, UNDP had received 56 per cent of the regular resources projected for 2014. Subject to exchange rate fluctuations, 2014 regular resources were projected to reach \$850 million, which amounted to 49 per cent of the \$1.75 billion integrated budget target for 2014–2015.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/24)], the Executive Board took note of the annual review of the financial situation 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 849] and the status of regular resources funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2014 and onwards. The Board also noted the importance of regular resources, which allowed UNDP to plan, strengthen accountability and provide predictable services in response to the needs of all programme countries, particularly the most vulnerable. It requested UNDP to continue to explore incentives, mechanisms and funding windows to broaden the donor base and to support donors to increase their core contributions and shift to less restricted/earmarked non-core funding, and to present the Board with a resource mobilization strategy for consideration at its first regular session of 2015.

Audit and oversight reports

In June, the Executive Board considered the UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2013 [DP/2014/11/Add.1]. During that year, JIU issued two notes and two reports containing 10 recommendations. Of those, one note with one recommendation and seven recommendations from the two reports were directed at UNDP. The report provided a synopsis of management responses to the recommendations and an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in JIU reports issued in 2012 and 2011. UNDP pursued on an ongoing basis and/or implemented 63 per cent of the 40 relevant recommendations issued in 2012, and 84 per cent of the 51 recommendations issued in 2011.

The Executive Board [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/23)] took note of the UNDP report on the JIU recommendations in 2013.

Human Development Report

An oral update on the 2015 *Human Development Report* preparations and consultations was presented to the Executive Board at its annual session.

On 27 June, the Executive Board took note of the oral report report [E/2013/35 (dec. 2014/23).

UN Capital Development Fund

In the first year of implementation of its strategic framework 2014–2017 [DP/2015/21], the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) expanded its partnerships within the United Nations, the philanthropic community and the private sector to support local development finance programming in 20 least developed countries (LDCs)—14 in sub-Saharan Africa and six in Asia. The portfolio included regional and global thematic initiatives under the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility for infrastructure adaptation to climate change; the Local Finance Initiative for domestic resource mobilization in local infrastructure and productive investments; the Local Cross-Border Initiative for a local economic development approach to cross-border trade; and the Inclusive and Equitable Development for women's economic empowerment. UNCDF supported inclusive finance programming in 25 LDCs—18 in sub-Saharan Africa and seven in Asia—mainly through global or regional initiatives, including the Making Access Possible framework. It also capitalized on synergies between those two programme areas—local development finance and inclusive finance—to pilot and scale up innovative finance mechanisms to increase investments and leverage the untapped potential in developing countries.

The Fund's financial situation was marked by a 51 per cent increase from 2013 in non-core resources to reach a record high of \$73.3 million (26 per cent of which originated from eight major private sector foundations and corporations), but remained constrained by a low level of core contributions, which reached some \$14.9 million, a \$1.4 million decrease from 2013 and well short of the \$25 million target set in the UNCDF strategic framework that would assure the Fund's operations in 40 least developed countries (LDCs). Total UNCDF revenue reached \$88.3 million, up from \$65.4 million in 2013, owing mainly to the increased non-core contributions. The base of UNCDF development partners broadened, with 44 development partners contributing to UNCDF resources in 2014, up from 36 in 2013.

At the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, the UNCDF Executive Secretary, ad interim, presented an overview of the activities of the Fund in 2013, while the Director of the UNCDF Local Development Programme Finance Area presented the report on results achieved in 2013 [YUN 2013,

p. 851], including the integrated results and resources framework 2014–2017, and its methodological note.

On 27 June, the Executive Board [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/12)] took note of the report on the results achieved by UNCDF in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 851]; expressed concern that regular resources remained short of the \$25 million threshold required to sustain UNCDF programming in 40 LDCs; noted with concern that, as a result, the number of LDCs supported by UNCDF dropped from 37 in 2012 to 33 in 2013; called on Member States to contribute to UNCDF regular resources to ensure that it could reach the target of \$25 million per year in annual regular resources to ensure support to at least 40 LDCs; noted the efforts of UNCDF to further streamline its business processes; and requested it to present an analysis on its cost recovery practices with a view to achieving greater efficiency and results.

UN Volunteers

In 2014 [DP/2015/26], 6,325 UN volunteers from 155 countries worked for the UNDP-administered United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, compared with 6,351 in 2013. The total financial value of UNV operations, which included support from UNDP regular resources, amounted to \$201 million, compared to \$210 million in 2013. Of that total, programme resource expenses made directly by the UNV programme amounted to \$20 million (10 per cent). The remaining financial value was covered by direct charges to UN organizations. The UNV strategic framework 2014–2017 was launched during the year (see below), and the key results of 2014 were the increased acknowledgement of volunteers and volunteerism as powerful resources and vital components of sustainable development; further mobilization of UNV volunteers for the delivery of peace and development results; and the enhancement or forging of traditional and new partnerships within and outside the UN system.

In April [DP/2014/13], the Administrator submitted a report on UNV results during the 2012–2013 biennium in support of programme countries and UN entities in their peace and development efforts. The report also outlined challenges and opportunities for UNV in the next biennium, in the context of the UNV strategic framework 2014–2017 and its associated integrated results and resources matrix, launched in January 2014. The framework was the first of its kind, focusing on harnessing the power of volunteers and volunteerism to support Member States in achieving internationally agreed development goals. UNV would be guided by the framework over the following four years and focus on working more systematically with partner countries and UN partners to increase its impact. The vision of the strategic framework was translated into concrete deliverables in the integrated resources and results matrix, which UNV would report

against in subsequent Executive Board reports—including a mid-cycle review at the end of 2015—to assess implementation progress, make necessary adjustments and ensure alignment with the post-2015 development agenda. The framework established ambitious targets in terms of volunteer numbers and their impact, and in supporting the integration of volunteerism into national frameworks. UNV would focus on strengthening partnerships for the Special Voluntary Fund (SVF), the UN Youth Volunteering Trust Fund, fully-funded UN Volunteers and other cost-sharing opportunities. The 2009–2013 SVF report, published in 2014, demonstrated that SVF was an indispensable component of UNV funding and recommended that the mandate of the Fund be expanded to cover the activities outlined in that report.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/13)], the Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on UNV results during the 2012–2013 biennium; commended UNV for the development and launch of its strategic framework and integrated results and resources matrix 2014–2017; noted that future reports of the Administrator would be structured using the new results framework; expressed appreciation for the outstanding contribution that UNV, including UN Online Volunteers, made to peace and to the development achievements of programme countries and UN partners; requested that Member States and UN entities develop partnerships with UNV to ensure a stronger integration of volunteerism in their development programming; welcomed the Special Voluntary Fund report 2009–2013; agreed to expand the mandate of the Fund; called on Member States to increase contributions to the Fund; and called upon UNDP to continue to provide UNV with all the necessary programmatic, administrative, financial and legal support to deliver on its mandate.

UNFPA

At its first regular session in January, the Executive Board adopted several decisions related to UNFPA activities, including those on the transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan 2014–2015 [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/5)], and modifications to the procedures for considering and approving UNDP and UNFPA country programme documentation [dec. 2014/7]. It also took note of the evaluation report on the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on female genital mutilation/cutting, and approved the final country programmes for Namibia and Mexico [dec. 2014/9]. At its annual session in June, the Board adopted a decision on the annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2013 [dec. 2014/15], which was comprised of a report on progress in the implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan 2008–2013 [DP/FPA/2014/5 (Part I)], a statistical and financial review for 2013 [DP/FPA/2014/5 (Part I)/Add.1] and a report on the recommendations

of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2013 [DP/FPA/2014/5 (Part II)]. It also adopted decisions on the strategic framework for UNFPA global and regional interventions, 2014–2017 [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/16)]; the annual report on evaluation, 2013 [dec. 2014/17]; updating the UNFPA oversight policy [dec. 2014/18]; and revised UNFPA financial regulations and rules [dec. 2014/19]. On country programmes and related matters, the Executive Board approved the second programme extension, for one year, for Guinea-Bissau; the two-year programme extension for Burundi; and, on an exceptional basis, the country programme document for Kenya. The Board further took note of the first one-year programme extensions for Algeria, Lebanon and Uganda [dec. 2014/23]. At its second regular session in September, the Board adopted a decision on funding commitments to UNFPA and implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development [dec. 2014/25]; took note of the draft revised UNFPA oversight policy and the updated integrated resource plan for 2014–2017; approved the two-year programme extension for Botswana and the final country programmes for Afghanistan, Angola, Comoros, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Venezuela. It also approved, in accordance with decision 2014/7, the country programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and the State of Palestine [dec. 2014/29].

(For more information on UNFPA operational activities, see PART THREE, Chapter VIII).

UNOPS

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was established in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 900] by General Assembly decision 48/501 [YUN 1994, p. 806] as a separate, self-financing entity of the UN system to act as a service provider to UN organizations. It offered a broad range of services, from overall project management to the provision of single inputs.

On 28 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/6)], the Executive Board noted with regret that Jan Mattsson would retire from his position as UNOPS Executive Director effective 31 March. The Board commended him for his effective and innovative leadership of UNOPS from 2006 to 2014.

2014 activities

In 2014 [DP/OPS/2015/2], UNOPS delivered a range of more than 1,200 peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects in over 80 countries. UNOPS delivery during the year was \$1.2 billion, compared to \$1.16 billion in 2013. That increase was mainly attributable to increased demand for UNOPS support to partners' development work in Afghanistan and Myanmar; mine action services in Mali, Somalia and

South Sudan; and humanitarian response activities in the Middle East.

Key results on behalf of partners were the construction, design or rehabilitation of 175 bridges, 4,577 kilometres of road, 2 airstrips, 30 schools, and 18 hospitals and health clinics. Thirty-seven per cent of UNOPS-supported projects in 2014 provided employment for local people. That included the creation of more than 3 million days of paid work, the majority of which were generated by infrastructure projects. UNOPS procured more than \$669 million worth of goods and services for its partners. Those included over 49,000 units of machinery and equipment, as well as more than 5,500 vehicles. Over 17.8 million medical supplies were handled, including the distribution of approximately 3.6 million diagnostic kits.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/20)], the Executive Board welcomed the appointment of the new UNOPS Executive Director and took note of the contributions of UNOPS, often in the most challenging environments, to the operational results of the United Nations and its partners. It also welcomed the transformational change of UNOPS during the period of the strategic plan 2010–2013; the platform established for implementing the strategic plan 2014–2017 [YUN 2013, p. 853]; the continued increase of UNOPS delivery; the increased implementation of audit recommendations to 93 per cent; and the leadership role that UNOPS played in procurement, infrastructure and project management.

Financial and administrative matters

Audit reports

Board of Auditors report. In June, the UN Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly the UNOPS financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 [A/69/5/Add.11 & Corr.1]. UNOPS reported a net surplus of \$14.7 million in 2013, compared with the net surplus for 2012 of \$8.2 million. Expenses totalled \$703.7 million, compared with \$676.6 million in 2012. Total revenue for 2013 was \$717.1 million, compared with \$683.2 million in 2012. Almost half (47 per cent) of that revenue was generated by project management services and a further \$255.2 million (37 per cent) from construction contracts. UNOPS also received \$3.7 million in services in kind in 2013, related primarily to the estimated market rental value of office space provided by Denmark to accommodate UNOPS headquarters in Copenhagen. UNOPS spent \$261.8 million in 2013 on contractual services, compared to \$193.2 million in 2012. That total included payments to subcontractors and engineers for construction projects, and to vendors for security or for feasibility studies and research. Operating reserves at the end of 2013 were \$82.8 million, four times higher than the minimum level of \$20.2 million set by the Executive Board. As at 31 December 2013, UNOPS

held total cash and investments of \$1,015.5 million, compared with \$1,257.6 million in 2012. The decrease of \$242.1 million was mostly explained by the fact that UNOPS continued to settle outstanding balances with other UN entities, and consequently there was a \$261.7 million reduction in UNOPS liabilities payable to those entities. UNOPS signed a record level of agreements with partners during 2013, and its cash position demonstrated that it will continue to fund a similar portfolio of work programmes in the future. At 31 December 2013, UNOPS held advances from project sponsors in the amount of \$826.7 million (compared with \$862.0 million in 2012), including \$470.6 million classified as deferred revenue. That was equivalent to total delivery for nine months and showed that the UNOPS financial position was solid. The report noted that as of March 2014, of the 28 recommendations of the Board made for 2012 and earlier, 11 (39 per cent) were implemented, 14 (50 per cent) were under implementation, and 3 (11 per cent) had not been implemented. Annexed to the report was a detailed commentary on the status of those recommendations.

Procurement

An annual statistical report on the procurement activities of UN system organizations [DP/OPS/2014/5] stated that the total UN system procurement under all sources of funding during 2013 was \$16.1 billion, which represented an increase of \$711 million, or 4.6 per cent, over 2012. The UN system procured goods and services from 192 countries in 2013, with 123 countries having an annual procurement volume of more than \$10 million each in that year. Consistent with General Assembly resolutions 57/279 [YUN 2002, p 1358] and 61/246 [YUN 2006, p 1645], UN organizations continued to place more orders with vendors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and the annual statistical report examined UN performance in that area. There was a steady growth of such orders over the 2009–2013 period, for a cumulative increase of 28.7 per cent. That increase represented an annual compounded growth rate of 6.1 per cent, compared with an overall average procurement volume growth of 3.7 per cent annually. The 10 major countries that supplied the UN system included four developing countries, with Afghanistan, India, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates accounting for 37.4 per cent of the total procurement volume. The United States remained the top supplier country with a 10.4 per cent share of total volume, followed by India (6.7 per cent) and Switzerland (4.5 per cent). A thematic supplement to the report focused on the issue of implementing innovative solutions in procurement.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/26)], the Executive Board took note of the report and expressed its appreciation of the transparency under which the report was made available to the public by UNOPS through the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

Joint matters

Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

In January, the Executive Board considered the reports of UNDP [DP/2014/7], UNFPA [DP/FPA/2014/1] and UNOPS [DP/OPS/2014/1] on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2012.

The Board of Auditors report of UNDP for 2012 had issued 20 audit recommendations. Of these, the Board identified nine that had high priority, while the other 11 were assigned medium priority. The UNDP report [DP/2014/7] on the status of those recommendations noted that although the total number of 20 recommendations issued was numerically lower than that of previous audit periods, their full implementation was expected to be more demanding. At the end of September 2013, management actions had been taken on many of the 20 audit recommendations to ensure their implementation by the target completion dates. The report also reviewed progress in addressing the top nine audit priorities for 2012–2013.

The Board of Auditors report of UNFPA for 2012 made 11 new recommendations for 2012 and repeated one recommendation, compared to 34 for the period 2010–2011. The UNFPA report [DP/FPA/2014/1] on the status of those recommendations described progress and plans of implementation for both the main and previous recommendations on the following issues: the International Public Sector Accounting Standards; unfunded employee benefits liabilities; inventory management; consultants, experts and temporary assistance; human resources management; procurement and contract management; harmonized approach to cash transfers; information technology; internal audit and oversight; regionalization; and operating fund advances. The report concluded that UNFPA must strengthen its management oversight, fiduciary duties and the monitoring of its field-level activities, including by enhancing the role and functions of the regional offices in programme delivery. To do so, UNFPA had developed and implemented new and revised policies, procedures and tools, and would continue strengthening its internal systems, controls, decision making and financial management.

The Board of Auditors report of UNOPS for 2012 made eight main recommendations classified as high priority and 10 recommendations classified as medium priority. The UNOPS report [DP/OPS/2014/1] on the status of those recommendations noted that the completion of their implementation was on track per the established timelines. Annexed to the report were specific responses to each recommendation. The report also noted that the Board of Auditors had given UNOPS an unqualified audit opinion, which was an achievement because in 2012, for the first time, UNOPS produced financial statements in compliance with the Interna-

tional Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). It had also prepared the interim financial statements for the period January to June 2013 solely with internal resources.

On 30 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/8)], the Executive Board took note of the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2012. It welcomed the unqualified audit opinions issued by the Board of Auditors for 2012 for UNDP and UNFPA; supported ongoing UNDP and UNFPA management efforts in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2012; and requested UNDP and UNFPA to continue to strengthen internal controls and improve oversight and monitoring of country offices, including the timely implementation of outstanding recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and to continue to ensure compliance with policies and procedures for procurement, inventory tracking and bank reconciliation. The Executive Board also commended the efforts of UNOPS management for successfully addressing the challenges in making the transition from the UN system accounting standards to IPSAS.

Internal audit and oversight

At its June session, the Executive Board considered the internal audit and oversight activities reports of UNDP [DP/2014/16], UNFPA [DP/FPA/2014/6 & Add. 1] and UNOPS [DP/OPS/2014/3] for the year ended 31 December 2013.

The UNDP report provided information on the activities of the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) in 2013, including details on OAI resources and information on issues related to the public disclosure of internal audit reports and experience gained from public disclosure to date. It also contained lessons learned on joint audits and on cases of fraud and actions taken in cases of misconduct. Appended to the report was the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee.

The UNFPA report provided information on the activities of the UNFPA Division for Oversight Services (DOS) in 2013, including the overall audit assessment of the risk exposure of UNFPA; issues revealed through DOS internal audits and investigations; investigations of cases of fraud and actions taken; a review of internal audit recommendations issued in 2008–2013 and their implementation status; and the disclosure of internal audit reports. An addendum [DP/FPA/2014/6/Add.1] contained the annual report of the UNFPA Audit Advisory Committee and the management response thereto.

The UNOPS report provided information on the activities of the UNOPS Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG) in 2013. It stated that 21 reports were released during the year, compared with 34 reports in 2012. The combined audit reports contained 135 audit recommendations, of which 87 pertained to internal

audit reports and 48 to project audit reports. The top six areas of audit recommendations were human resources (25 per cent), project management (24 per cent), general administration (23 per cent), procurement (15 per cent), corporate strategic management and leadership (8 per cent), and finance (5 per cent). Of the audit recommendations issued in or prior to 2011, 99.9 per cent were implemented, as were 63 per cent of those issued in 2012. The overall implementation of audit recommendations issued from 2008—the year IAIG started conducting internal audits—to 2013 was 93 per cent. There were several annexes to the report, including the 2013 annual report of the Strategy and Audit Advisory Committee.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/21)], the Executive Board took note of the reports of the three entities; noted with concern the number of recurring recommendations in the areas of project management, financial management, monitoring and procurement; and requested UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to step up their efforts to achieve the timely, full, complete, and sustained implementation of all outstanding and new audit recommendations. The Board also urged UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to strengthen the audit and investigative functions, and to ensure those offices were sufficiently resourced to carry out their mandates, including through the analysis of audit coverage and resources in future annual reports. With regard to UNDP, the Board requested UNDP management to provide information on how accountability and oversight mechanisms would operate in the new UNDP structure. With regard to UNFPA, the Board encouraged the Fund to develop and implement effective risk management policies to ensure effective delivery of the strategic plan. With regard to UNOPS, the Board noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of audit recommendations more than 18 months old.

Ethics offices

At its annual meeting in June, the Executive Board considered the reports of the UNDP Ethics Office [DP/2014/17], the UNFPA Ethics Office [DP/FPA/2014/4] and the UNOPS Ethics Office [DP/OPS/2014/4], covering their respective activities in 2013 in such areas as standard-setting and policy support; training, education and outreach; advice and guidance; financial disclosure; and protection of staff against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with audits or investigations.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/22)], the Executive Board took note of the reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and requested those offices to improve protections for whistle-blowers by developing and implementing an effective policy on protection against retaliation that specified a statute of limitations of a minimum of six months for reporting

retaliation. The Board encouraged the ethics offices to continue expanding their ethics training programmes and to continue their efforts to achieve coherence with other members of the Ethics Panel of the United Nations regarding the ethics policies, standards and practices of their respective agencies.

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Procurement

At its second regular session in September, the Executive Board considered the report of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on joint procurement activities [DP-FPA-OPS/2014/1]. The report presented key findings and outcomes from the common procurement work conducted in 2013 and set out the initiatives underway in 2014. It concluded that collaborative procurement initiatives led by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS delivered significant improvements and savings across the UN system. Many of those projects also eliminated duplication, increased consistency and strengthened country office procurement. As cooperative projects continued throughout 2014, the organizations were increasing their commitment to pursue common opportunities across a range of products and sectors.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/27)], the Executive Board welcomed the progress made by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on joint procurement initiatives and encouraged them and other UN agencies to work closer together, with the High-level Committee on Management Procurement Network and other development partners, centrally and at the country level, to further identify opportunities to aggregate demand and consolidate buying to obtain better prices. The Board also called upon UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and other UN agencies to incorporate the building of programme country procurement capacity into their overall capacity development work, and to increase opportunities for suppliers from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It requested UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to further improve the monitoring of joint procurement activities and to report regularly on the implementation of the United Nations model framework for vendor sanctions.

Other matters

Global Environment Facility

At the second regular session, the Director, ad interim, of the UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support presented a note by the Administrator of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) [DP/2014/23] describing amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF Instrument), their rationale and key implications for UNDP. The amendments addressed five

matters: the confirmation that the GEF should operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury [YUN 2013, p. 1336]; the separation of the GEF role for each convention that it served; the replacement of the focal areas of ozone layer depletion and of persistent organic pollutants by the focal area of chemicals and waste; the update of the eligibility criteria of countries to receive GEF funding; and the inclusion of references to the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office. In accordance with paragraph 34 of the Instrument, the amendments would become effective only after adoption by the three GEF Implementing Agencies, namely UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, which also served as the Trustee. The note recommended that the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board adopt the amendments.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/28)], the Executive Board decided to adopt the amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility as approved by the Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (Cancún, Mexico, 28–29 May 2014).

Field visits

A delegation of six members of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board visited Tajikistan (24–30 June 2013) [DP/FPA/2014/CRP.1] to observe the operations and programmes of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and gain insight into the contributions of those organizations at the country level. The United Nations had been present in Tajikistan since 1992, starting with the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building, which concluded its mission in October 2007. Since 1993, the United Nations had increased its presence to comprise 23 specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Tajikistan was the largest in the Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region, reflecting the importance and impact of the United Nations on the country's development. UNDP remained the largest UN organization in Tajikistan, accounting for nearly two thirds of the total number of implemented programmes. The delegation observed good collaboration by the UNCT with the Government and among donors, and a thoughtful approach to the sustainability of UNCT endeavours. With the support of the UN and the international community, Tajikistan had advanced in the adoption of more sustainable policies and systems to manage its economy and environment, and it was better equipped to respond to natural disasters and security challenges. Still, it remained the poorest of Central Asian countries and continued to face critical development issues regarding access to reliable energy; acute water shortages; population issues, including maternal and child mortality rates; and related issues of gender equality stemming from stereotypes in Tajik society concerning the

roles of women and men and traditional customs and practices. The UNCT displayed techniques that represented best practices, within and beyond the region, both in terms of programming and the organization of work, and the delegation concluded that its work should continue and expand.

At its first regular session, the Executive Board took note of the report of the field visit to Tajikistan [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)].

A 25-member delegation of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, WFP and UN-Women visited Panama and El Salvador (23 March–1 April) [DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF-UNW-WFP/2014/CRP.8] to enhance their understanding of the role of the UN development system in general and especially that of the specific organizations in the region. It was the first joint field visit to Latin America in over 10 years. The delegation learned about the role and functions of the Panama-based United Nations Regional Team in supporting and coordinating UNCTs and national Governments in the region, and considered the development of a “Delivering as Region” modality for Latin America and the Caribbean. In El Salvador, the delegation observed the role of the UNCT in its efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite being classified as a lower middle-income country, some aspects of the situation in El Salvador suggested that it might be regarded as non-typical of this category (e.g., the quality of house construction, access to drinking water and sanitation and access to education). The country had made tremendous progress in development in recent years, but still faced a number of development issues, notably the fragile rule of law; weak institutions; widespread income poverty and income inequality; limited basic social services; underemployment and unemployment; corruption; violence and crime, including a high rate of gender-based violence and violence against children and adolescents; and unplanned urbanization accompanied by environmental degradation and vulnerability to natural disasters. The delegation recommended that the UNCT continue to assist the Government in building on the socioeconomic progress achieved in recent years and continue to provide policy advice on inclusive and sustainable development progress.

A delegation representing the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board visited Fiji and Samoa (22–29 April 2014) [DP/FPA/2014/CRP.2] to enhance the Board's understanding of how UN organizations, in particular UNDP and UNFPA, positioned their engagement with the Pacific small island developing States. The visit—the first to the Pacific Islands region—was timely, given the upcoming Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (1–4 September, Apia, Samoa) (see p. 000), and the delegation noted that the work of the UN entities was closely aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework

and with major regional plans and strategies for the Pacific. The delegation concluded that the priority for major regional plans and strategies should remain on strengthening national development capacities, on supporting community resilience and mechanisms for coping with the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and on eliminating violence against women and girls.

At its second regular session, the Executive Board took note of the respective reports of the joint field visits to Panama and El Salvador, and to Fiji and Samoa [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/29)].

Other cooperation

UN Office for Partnerships

The United Nations Office for Partnerships, reformed in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1046], served as the gateway for public-private partnerships with the UN system in furtherance of the MDGs. It oversaw the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), and provided partnership advisory and outreach services.

Report of Secretary-General. In July [A/69/218], the Secretary-General submitted a report on the activities of the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The report was submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 [YUN 1998, p. 1297] and 53/475 [YUN 1999, p. 1318], wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the Office [YUN 2013, p. 858]. The report supplemented the information contained in the 15 previous reports of the Secretary-General, submitted between 1998 and 2013.

On 29 December (**decision 69/552**), the General Assembly took note of the report.

UN Fund for International Partnerships

The UN Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 1297] to serve as the interface between the UN system and the United Nations Foundation, a public charity responsible for administering Robert E. Turner's \$1 billion contribution in support of UN causes. At the end of 2014, the cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation for UNFIP projects reached approximately \$1.36 billion. Of this amount, it was estimated that \$0.45 billion (about 33 per cent) represented core Turner funds and \$0.91 billion (about 67 per cent) was generated from co-financing partners. The total number of UN projects and programmes supported as at the end of 2014 by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP stood at 563. Collectively, those projects were implemented by 43 UN entities in 124 countries.

In 2014, the UN Foundation approved projects totalling \$56.8 million, the majority of which (\$53.8 million) focused on global health. Health-related projects supported by the Foundation through UNFIP during the year included the Measles Initiative (re-named the Measles and Rubella Initiative in 2012) by the disbursement of \$51 million to UNICEF and WHO; the Nothing But Nets campaign to fight malaria by the disbursement of over \$1,123,00 to support the distribution of insecticide-treated bednets and other interventions by UNICEF and UNHCR in Chad, Cameroon and Madagascar; a grant of \$100,000 to address energy needs in health-care facilities in five sub-Saharan countries; and a grant of \$1,551,500 to WHO to procure supplies to assist Governments in the management of Ebola cases. For the Girl Up campaign, the Foundation disbursed through UNFIP almost \$900,000 to UNICEF and UNHCR to support projects that advance the education of Somali refugee girls in Ethiopia and the rights of adolescent girls in Guatemala, including by strengthening mechanisms for protection against gender-based violence. Energy and climate projects that received grants in 2014 included the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Climate Change Support Team in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and the WHO clean household energy planning tool.

UN Democracy Fund

UNDEF was established by the Secretary-General in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 655] to support democratization around the world. It focused on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office channeled approximately \$145 million to more than 540 projects in over 120 countries around the world, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and youth, to media programmes allowing civil society to project its voice.

In 2014, the eighth round of funding came amid upheavals in several parts of the world. Both civil society groups and the media continued to face growing pressures and restrictions, and the closing space for civil society became an alarming feature in a range of countries on several continents. Against this background, the Fund received 2,062 project proposals for its eighth round of funding, reflecting a high demand for support. The proposals originated from organizations in 133 countries, most of which were local non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The eighth-round project selection emphasized the media, with almost 40 per cent of selected projects operating in this field. That reflected a recognition of the media as having a revolutionizing impact in democratization processes, and the need to safeguard

media freedom in the face of threats and pressures. Forty-nine projects were funded at a total cost of \$9,455,000. The activities of those projects covered media (38 per cent), community development (18 per cent), youth (16 per cent), rule of law and human rights (12 per cent), strengthening instrumentalities of government (6 per cent), tools (6 per cent) and women's empowerment (4 per cent). In November, the Fund launched its ninth round for project proposals. When applications closed on 31 December, the Fund had received 2,331 project proposals that would be assessed by March 2015.

Partnership advisory and outreach services

The United Nations Office for Partnerships provided advisory and outreach services in response to the growing demand from the UN system, Governments and non-State actors in pursuing public-private partnerships. In 2014, companies, foundations and NGOs approached the Office to explore opportunities for engagement with the United Nations and to assist with pooling expertise and resources to address issues on the UN agenda. To promote the post-2015 development agenda, the Office collaborated with partners on high-impact events and issued advice on best practices for promoting the MDGs. Ten key initiatives were divided into three partner categories: Member States, the UN system and other international organizations; and the private sector and civil society. Initiatives included the permanent memorial at the United Nations to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade; a conference and exhibit to highlight crowd-sourced projects for resilient schools and emergency shelters for areas affected by natural disasters and wars; the 2014 Equator Prize to recognize leadership by indigenous and local communities to meet climate and development challenges through sustainable solutions; World Toilet Day; the International Women's Day forum; the Media for Social Impact Summit; the Social Innovation Summit 2014; a Global Accelerator event to engage entrepreneurs on UN objectives and the post-2015 development agenda; a conference on "Changing lives through mobile: innovation in emerging markets"; and the Blouin Creative Leadership Summit.

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

South-South and triangular cooperation

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/230 [YUN 2013, p. 859], the Secretary-General presented the state of South-South cooperation in a July report [A/69/153], which found that UN agencies, funds and programmes had strengthened their own capacities to support South-South cooperation and mainstream it in their policies,

strategies and programmes, but they still needed improved coordination and greater financial support from both traditional sources and new public and private actors. In that context, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation was upgraded to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in 2013, and its head was made Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation in May 2014.

The report contained recommendations on improving the system-wide governance, focus, coherence and coordination of South-South cooperation to maximize its development impact. South-South cooperation should continue to be mainstreamed in the operational work of the UN system through the development of more guidance tools that were aligned with the perspectives of Member States and the mandates of UN organizations and agencies. Also important was continued access by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UN-system South-South cooperation focal points to the UNDP global operations and country office network, UN country teams and the UN resident coordinator system, under the auspices of UNDP, as host of the Office and Chair of the United Nations Development Group (see p. 000). There was progress on the implementation of recommendations emanating from the report of the Joint Inspection Unit [YUN 2012, p. 893], as well as the 2012 evaluation of UNDP support to South-South cooperation, but recommendations related to the workings of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation as the key governance structure for South-South cooperation in the UN system were unfulfilled and should be prioritized, starting with consultations with Member States on updating the rules of procedure of the Committee, which were established in 1980.

High-level Committee. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, at its eighteenth session (New York, 19–22 May and 6 June) [A/69/39], considered a report [SSC/18/1] by the United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, taking into account the complementary role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of relevant major UN conferences in the social, economic and related fields. The Committee also considered two notes by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation [SSC/17/3 & SSC/18/2]; a report of the Secretary-General on measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation [SSC/18/3]; a report on the intersessional meeting of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in June 2013 [SSC/17/1M/L.2]; and a note

by the UNDP Administrator on the organization of work [SSC/18/L.3].

In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, the Committee held a thematic discussion on the contributions and strategy of the United Nations development system to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation. The debate touched upon issues of food security, the voice of the South in global governance, the potential of regional public goods, and successful approaches to tackling the challenges of poverty and income inequality, environmental sustainability and climate change.

In a decision adopted during the session [A/69/39 (dec. 18/1)], the Committee requested the UNDP Administrator, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to make recommendations on the additional support that entities of the UN system and Member States could provide to South-South and triangular cooperation, and to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging information-sharing on development activities and results achieved by organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth (2016) session a comprehensive report on the progress made in the implementation of the decision. The Committee also approved the provisional agenda for its nineteenth session [dec. 18/2].

On 14 July (**decision 2014/228**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its eighteenth session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/473/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/239** by recorded vote (129-44-7) [agenda item 24 (b)].

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Recalling its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012, 68/230 of 20 December 2013 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

Noting the announcement by the Secretary-General of the designation of the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as his Envoy on South-South Cooperation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its eighteenth Session, the decisions taken at that session, in particular decision 18/1, and the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting of 4 June 2013;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system, including its recommendations, and the related note by the Secretary-General;

4. *Recognizes* the importance and unique history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and that South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

5. *Also recognizes* that South-South cooperation is a partnership among equals based on solidarity and should not be seen as official development assistance, acknowledges in this regard the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and further recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, further information on the assignments and duties to be taken up by the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, including any potential financial and institutional implications deriving from his appointment as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation;

7. *Encourages* the funds, programmes, the specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to take further concrete measures, as appropriate, to effectively mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation in their policy and regular programming work, and in this context requests those organizations and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to leverage each other's institutional and technical capacities;

8. *Recognizes* the need to continue to mutually enrich South-South cooperation, based on the diverse experiences of and good practices from South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation, and to further explore complementarities and synergies between them;

9. *Invites* relevant Member States to share and exchange best practices in planning, implementation, data

collection and information and knowledge management in order to further improve the impact of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives on sustainable development;

10. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of considering South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, recalls decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and requests the Secretary-General, noting that further deliberation by Member States on the options presented in his report on measures to further strengthen the Office for South-South Cooperation will be required before a decision is taken on the idea of separating the Office for South-South Cooperation as operationally autonomous from the United Nations Development Programme, to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its special intersessional session to be held in 2015, in consultation with Member States, the Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme, a comprehensive proposal on up-scaling the Office in financial, human and budgetary terms under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including through the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, and at the same time recommending specific contributions of the United Nations Development Programme under such a change;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation in order to enable it to respond effectively and efficiently to the South-South cooperation needs of Member States and the United Nations system;

14. *Acknowledges and encourages* the initiatives and arrangements undertaken as part of the efforts to enhance cooperation among developing countries, including in the areas of eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality, the empowerment of women, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development, including through multilateral multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships;

15. *Requests* the United Nations development system to further assess, within the scope of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, progress made in its support, particularly with regard to the provision of adequate resources and the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, as well as in mainstreaming South-South cooperation into the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in the field;

16. *Also requests* the United Nations development system to continue improving coordination among its agencies in order to enhance its support to South-South and

triangular cooperation and monitor progress at the global and regional levels and to continue evaluating the support of the United Nations development system for those activities;

17. *Requests*, in this regard, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism, co-ordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support for South-South and triangular initiatives, as well as sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, calls upon the United Nations development system to designate representational focal points to join the mechanism, and requests the Administrator to give the Office for South-South Cooperation the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordination mechanisms of the Development Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed;

18. *Also requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to make specific recommendations on additional support that the United Nations system and its entities could provide to South-South and triangular cooperation, which could include voluntary secondment of staff and the appointment of Junior Professional Officers to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

19. *Requests* the United Nations development system to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects of South-South and triangular cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them in order to ensure that sustainability is a key component of those projects;

20. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations of the United Nations development system to assist developing countries in implementing projects on South-South cooperation, upon request and in a manner consistent with their mandates and strategic plans;

21. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and also to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

22. *Requests* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

23. *Recognizes* that South-South and triangular cooperation are mutually supportive in terms of both technical and financial assistance, emphasizes in this regard the importance of further invigorating South-South cooperation, and invites all Member States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities with the involvement of all

relevant stakeholders in Governments, the private sector and civil society, including volunteer groups;

24. *Invites* the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, technical and research capacity in support of enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level;

25. *Requests* all Member States and the United Nations development system to foster complementarities among North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation through greater evidence-based policy dialogue on strategic cross-cutting issues, in particular for the application of science, technology and innovation and the integration of a gender perspective into the pursuit of sustainable development;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session, to provide an update on concrete steps taken to further strengthen South-South cooperation within the United Nations development system;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, the sub-item entitled “South-South cooperation for development”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation within the context of the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the concrete measures taken by the United Nations development system to improve its support to South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/239:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Switzerland.