

Energy, natural resources and geospatial information

The conservation, development and use of energy and natural resources along with the development and promotion of global geospatial information remained the focus of several United Nations bodies in 2014. The International Atomic Energy Agency, in addition to its work on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, continued to assist its member States in applying nuclear technology in areas such as energy security, human health and food security, water resources and the environment. During the year, the General Assembly, in addition to taking note of the annual report of the Agency as well as of the Secretary-General on reliable and stable transit of energy, adopted a resolution promoting the use of new and renewable sources of energy.

Priority areas for the inter-agency mechanism UN-Water in 2014 included transboundary waters, water and climate change, water scarcity and water efficiency, water supply and basic sanitation, and water quality. The Assembly adopted a resolution inviting its President to convene a high-level interactive dialogue on progress achieved in the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015 and welcoming the offer of Tajikistan to host a high-level international conference on the implementation of the Decade in 2015.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the reports of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourth session and of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-eighth session. The Council also decided to accept the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 9 October 2015. The Council further decided that the fifth session of the Committee of Experts would be held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015 and that the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts would be held in Bangkok on 25–29 April 2016.

Energy and natural resources

Energy

Nuclear energy

International Atomic Energy Agency

As set forth in its 2014 annual report [GC(59)/7], the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to focus—in addition to its work in strengthening

global nuclear verification and non-proliferation efforts (see PART ONE, CHAPTER VII)—on promoting peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, nuclear safety and security, as well as ensuring through its technical cooperation programme that the benefits of nuclear science and technology were shared by all of its member States. The fifty-eighth session of the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 22–26 September) [GC(58)/RES/DEC/(2014)] adopted resolutions on international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety; nuclear security; the Agency’s technical cooperation activities and those related to nuclear science, technology and applications; the effectiveness and efficiency of IAEA safeguards; implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; and application of the Agency’s safeguards in the Middle East, among other matters.

In August [A/69/255], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the IAEA annual report for the calendar year 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 979], of which the Assembly took note on 3 November 2014 by **resolution 69/7** (see p. 000).

Activities

According to the 2014 IAEA annual report, at the end of the year, there were 438 nuclear power reactors in operation around the world, making for a total nuclear energy-generating capacity of 376.2 gigawatts-electric. During 2014, five reactors were connected to the grid and one was permanently shut down, while construction began on three new reactors. Asia remained the centre of short- and long-term growth prospects, accounting for 46 of the 70 reactors under construction.

Among the major meetings organized by the Agency over the course of the year, the International Conference on Human Resource Development for Nuclear Power Programmes: Building and Sustaining Capacity (Vienna, 12–16 May) noted that more systematic training approaches were being used globally in the nuclear field and that development across the skills pyramid was improving. The International Symposium on Uranium Raw Material for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Exploration, Mining, Production, Supply and Demand, Economics and Environmental Issues (Vienna, 23–27 June) highlighted recent developments in uranium exploration, mining and processing, including innovative financing, the use of advanced

technologies in “smart mines”, integrated exploration and “wealth from wastes”. The Symposium also addressed emergent issues such as the need for attention to social licensing and stakeholder engagement, the rollout of new technologies across the mining life cycle, sustainable recovery and replacement of low-cost resources. Participants in the 25th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 13–18 October) reviewed advances and achievements in physics and technology needed to demonstrate electricity production from fusion, along with progress in constructing the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor—the world’s largest tokamak. Key areas identified for future attention included blanket and radiochemistry technologies, systems integration, technologies for the steady-state operation of fusion systems and technologies for fusion-fission hybrid systems.

Throughout 2014, IAEA continued to support its member States in building, strengthening and maintaining capacities for the safe, peaceful and secure use of nuclear technology. It also focused on developing isotope techniques for groundwater assessments—including the assessment of the Guarani aquifer shared by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay—in order to help meet the demand for freshwater resources and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Agency assisted other member States in evaluating programmes created to prevent and treat malnutrition in early life by using stable isotope techniques. It hosted an International Symposium on Understanding Moderate Malnutrition in Children for Effective Interventions (Vienna, 26–29 May) that determined that better tools are required to prevent and treat moderate malnutrition. In addition, IAEA conducted a Consultants Meeting on Particle Therapy in the 21st Century: Relevance to Developing Countries (Vienna, 11–14 November) that investigated the use of proton therapy to treat cancer for low- and middle-income countries. The Agency further endeavoured to help its member States develop competencies and capabilities in the safe and efficient practice of nuclear medicine by providing an open access, web-based learning programme to support professional development.

IAEA and its member States continued to make progress in strengthening nuclear safety and security by implementing the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety endorsed after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant [YUN 2011, p. 587]. In 2014, the Agency organized two major meetings to share lessons learned from the accident. The International Experts Meeting on Radiation Protection after the Fukushima Daiichi Accident (Vienna, 17–21 February) covered issues ranging from the releases of radioactive material to the environment, managing the impact of the radioactive releases from the accident, international standards and communication. The International Experts Meeting on Severe Accident Management in

the Light of the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (Vienna, 17–20 March) focused on strengthening mitigation capabilities to deal with accidents and explored approaches that could be taken by operating organizations and regulatory bodies. Six Integrated Regulatory Review Service missions and four follow-up missions took place to improve the effectiveness of regulatory structures.

The Agency also carried out five Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) missions, seven follow-up missions and one corporate OSART mission that observed substantial improvements among member States in enhancing the ability of nuclear power plants to withstand severe accidents. Safe disposal solutions for low- and intermediate-level waste were in place for many member States, while progress was made on the disposal of high-level waste. The Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) (Vienna, 24 March–4 April) agreed by consensus on a number of amendments to the CNS guidance documents. The International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability (INLEX) continued to serve as the Agency’s main forum for questions related to nuclear liability. At its fourteenth regular meeting (Vienna, 20–22 May), INLEX discussed liability issues in the case of the transport of nuclear material, transportable nuclear power plants and the impact of the 2012 revision of the Agency’s Transport Regulations to exclude small quantities of nuclear material from the scope of the nuclear liability conventions. Joint IAEA-INLEX missions were conducted in an effort to raise awareness among policymakers and senior officials of the international legal instruments relevant for achieving a global nuclear liability regime.

The Agency further contributed to global efforts to achieve effective nuclear security wherever nuclear and other radioactive material was in use, storage or transport, as well as security of associated facilities. During 2014, IAEA assisted States in their efforts to meet their national responsibilities and international obligations to reduce risks and to respond appropriately to threats. The Seminar on the Promotion of the Entry into Force on the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 12 and 13 June) was held in order to encourage States to contribute to the reinforcement of the global nuclear security regime and to demonstrate commitment to the prevention, detection and punishment of offenses related to nuclear material. The Agency also organized the International Conference on Advances in Nuclear Forensics: Countering the Evolving Threat of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material out of Regulatory Control (Vienna, 7–10 July)—the first-ever conference dedicated exclusively to nuclear forensics as part of nuclear security infrastructure.

In Africa, IAEA technical cooperation helped more than 40 member States use nuclear and isotopic techniques to increase food production, improve water

management and develop capabilities for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The programme also strengthened radiation protection, built competence in radiation safety and strengthened the management of radioactive waste. During 2014, IAEA joined regional and international efforts to fight the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa (see p. 000) by enhancing diagnostic capacities in Sierra Leone. In the Asia and the Pacific region, priorities remained the strengthening of nuclear safety and security, along with improving related human resources and technological capabilities in the human health and food and agriculture areas. In Europe, technical cooperation activities continued to focus on four priority areas: nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear energy, human health, and isotope and radiation technology applications. The strengthening of regulatory infrastructure for safety was a key component addressed by a two-week School for Drafting Regulations on Radiation Safety (Vienna). In Latin America, priority areas for technical cooperation included food security and agriculture, human health, environment, energy, radiation technology and radiation safety. Particular emphasis was given to supporting the use of stable isotope techniques, enhancing understanding of the processes that influence groundwater management and enhancing medical responses to emergencies. Overall in 2014, approximately €74 million was disbursed to 131 countries or territories, of which 33 were least developed countries.

On 3 November [A/69/PV.38], the Director General of IAEA presented the Agency's 2013 annual report [YUN 2013, p. 979] to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 3 November [meeting 38], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/7 [draft: A/69/L.7 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 86].

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency for 2013,

Taking note of the statement by the Director General of the Agency, in which he provided additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 2014,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency,

Recognizing also the cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency and the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency as approved by the General Conference of the Agency on 23 October 1957 and by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 1145(XII) of 14 November 1957,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

2. *Takes note* of resolutions GC(58)/RES/10 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety; GC(58)/RES/11 on nuclear security; GC(58)/RES/12 on the strengthening

of the Agency's technical cooperation activities; GC(58)/RES/13 on strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications, comprising GC(58)/RES/13 A on non-power nuclear applications, GC(58)/RES/13 B on nuclear power applications and GC(58)/RES/13 C on nuclear knowledge management; GC(58)/RES/14 on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards; GC(58)/RES/15 on the implementation of the Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and GC(58)/RES/16 on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East; and decisions GC(58)/DEC/9 on the amendment to article XIV.A of the Statute of the Agency; and GC(58)/DEC/10 on the promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's decision-making process, adopted by the General Conference of the Agency at its fifty-eighth regular session, held from 22 to 26 September 2014;

3. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the indispensable role of the Agency in encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses, in technology transfer to developing countries and in nuclear safety, verification and security;

4. *Appeals* to Member States to continue to support the activities of the Agency;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the Agency the records of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to the activities of the Agency.

New and renewable sources of energy

In an August report on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy [A/69/323] submitted to the General Assembly in response to resolution 67/215 [YUN 2012, p. 990], the Secretary-General addressed new and renewable sources of energy not only as valuable options for energy supply but also as important factors for addressing global challenges such as universal energy access, energy security and climate change as well as poverty eradication and sustainable development. Many developing and developed countries had demonstrated their potential to satisfy energy requirements with technological advances, lower costs and successful development, even as 2013 and 2014 had witnessed declining investments globally as a result of the international economic crisis, changes in national policy environments and potential competition from new discoveries of unconventional fossil fuel resources. While the global use of renewable energy had increased in that period, much more needed to be done for growth in renewable energy to become self-sustaining and to pursue the accelerated deployment necessary to achieve critical universal goals. Towards limiting emissions from energy generation and supporting the transition to clean energy systems, there was a need to increase investments in renewable energy deployment and development and improve energy infrastructure and energy efficiency.

Sustainable Energy for All

In September, the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/69/395] to the General Assembly in response to resolution 67/215 (ibid.) by which the Assembly had declared 2014–2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, in recognition that access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries was essential for sustainable development. The report reviewed progress in the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General [YUN 2011, p. 966] along with actions and activities that had been undertaken to date in support of the Decade following its launch on 5 June by the President of the Assembly, including the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and the establishment of an annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, the first of which was held in New York from 4 to 6 June, along with the work of the intergovernmental International Renewable Energy Agency. The report furthermore laid out a global plan of action for the Decade especially with regard to promoting more sustainable energy options, including a Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework supported by UN-Energy and more than 20 agencies. Recommendations addressed how a full spectrum of activities could be brought together to ensure long-term predictability and synergies towards the implementation and realization of sustainable energy for all, and stressed the need for well-structured public-private partnerships to mobilize finance and incentivize technology deployment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/468/Add.9], adopted **resolution 69/225** without vote [agenda item 19 (i)].

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009 and 66/206 of 22 December 2011, as well as its resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and 67/215 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to declare 2014–2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Recalling also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling the high-level event on Sustainable Energy for All, which was held at its sixty-seventh session and which focused on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies,

Noting the launch, on 5 June 2014, of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, as part of the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, and noting also the initial two-year focus on energy for women, children and health,

Taking note of the Secretary-General’s Sustainable Energy for All initiative in this regard,

Taking note also of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, in particular the call for actions to promote sustainable energy in small island developing States,

Noting the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that in its report the Open Working Group proposes a goal on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Concerned that the lack of access to energy and sustainable modern energy services is an important factor that directly affects efforts towards poverty eradication, the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the developing world,

Deeply concerned that 2.6 billion people in developing countries rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that 1.2 billion people are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing also the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the provision of the efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which is aimed at promoting the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries as the way to achieve a rapid expansion of new and renewable sources of energy worldwide,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and encourages the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives defined in the global plan of action for the Decade;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency on its work programme and budget for 2014–2015, and encourages the Agency to support its member States in the achievement of their renewable energy objectives;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the activities carried out to mark the Decade, related activities within the United Nations system and the long-term institutional arrangements and accountability arrangements to all stakeholders of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

5. *Stresses* the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix as an important contribution to achieving universal access to sustainable modern energy services, and recognizes that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix;

6. *Emphasizes* that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and promoting cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are important for sustainable development;

7. *Recognizes* that the current share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy supply is still low owing to, among other factors, high costs and lack of access to appropriate technologies, and calls for action to achieve the economic viability of new and renewable sources of energy through enhanced research and development support along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the diffusion of new and existing environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with

economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

9. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

11. *Reaffirms its determination* to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to energy issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable modern energy services a priority, as such services contribute to poverty eradication, improve the quality of life, reduce inequality, save lives, improve health and help to provide for basic human needs, as well as curb environmental risks, including those associated with climate change, and stresses that these services are essential to social inclusion and gender equality;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and to mainstream a gender perspective into such policies;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to ensure women's full and equal access to and use of new, renewable and sustainable energy to enhance their economic empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities;

17. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in the most rapid reduction in the cost of new and renewable sources of energy and increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment;

18. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of stable and predict-

able financial resources and technical assistance and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the initiatives taken by Member States and international organizations to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including measures to improve access to such technologies;

21. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities around the world and to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session the results of related actions;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy”.

Transit of energy

Report of Secretary-General. In an August report on the reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation [A/69/309], submitted in response to resolution 67/263 [YUN 2013, p. 983], the Secretary-General emphasized that energy transit required extensive international cooperation. Ensuring the security of energy supply, demand and transit were essential to securing a sustainable energy future. The Secretary-General considered there to be an opportunity for more detailed rules on transit and more comprehensive investment guidelines that would enhance the existing energy transit framework. In addition, he suggested that international cooperation could be strengthened by further dialogue focused on developing enhanced transportation systems and pipeline networks at the international, regional and global levels. Other important areas of cooperation included the diversification of resources, the diversification of energy transportation routes, the design of enhanced oil and gas pipelines using advanced technologies, the improvement of pipeline systems and the development of pipeline networks and other energy infrastructure, including electricity grids. Such initiatives could be advanced by formulating concrete international legal principles and norms, taking into account the experience of Member States and international organization.

Communication. In a later communication [A/69/725], Turkmenistan informed the Secretary-General that the Declaration on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development was adopted at the International Meeting of Experts on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development held in Ashgabat from 10 to 11 December.

By **decision 69/544** of 19 December, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

Natural resources

Water resources

UN-Water

According to the 2014 annual report issued by UN-Water, priority areas for the inter-agency mechanism during the year included transboundary waters, water and climate change, water scarcity and water efficiency, water supply and basic sanitation, and water quality.

In preparation of World Water Day (21 March), the annual UN-Water Zaragoza (Spain) conference, held from 13 to 16 January, broadened its focus from the immediate nexus of water and energy to a practical consideration of how partnerships could help implement responses that would achieve water and energy efficiency, secured access and sustainability. The celebration of World Water Day in Tokyo sought to raise awareness of the interlinkages between water and energy; contribute to a policy dialogue on the broad range of issues related to the nexus of water and energy; and demonstrate to decision makers in both the energy sector and the water domain that integrated approaches and solutions to water-energy issues could achieve greater economic and social impacts. World Water Week (Stockholm, 31 August–5 September) further highlighted the theme of energy and water.

Later in the year, the celebration of World Toilet Day (17 November) [YUN 2013, p. 1176] brought the launch, at a high-level event at UN Headquarters in New York on the topic of dignity and equality, of the 2014 UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water.

Also of note in 2014, the UN Watercourses Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1336] went into effect, as the number of accessing parties reached the required total of 35.

International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013

In August, the Secretary-General provided an overview of activities undertaken in the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 984].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/468/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/215** without vote [agenda item 19 (a)].

International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/193 of 22 December 1992 on the observance of World Day for Water, 55/196 of 20 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 2003 the International Year of Freshwater, 58/217 of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, to commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2005, 59/228 of 22 December 2004, 61/192 of 20 December 2006, by which it proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Sanitation, 64/198 of 21 December 2009 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the Decade, 65/154 of 20 December 2010, by which it proclaimed 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation and 67/204 of 21 December 2012 on the implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that, in its report, the Open Working Group proposes a goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all,

Recalling its resolution 68/157 of 18 December 2013 on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including resolutions 24/18 of 27 September 2013 and 27/7 of 25 September 2014,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, the annex to which includes agreed guidelines and criteria for the proclamation of international years, and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all its principles, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments made therein and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recognizing that water is at the core of sustainable development, that it is critical for the eradication of poverty and hunger, and that it is indispensable for human health and well-being and central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant internationally agreed goals in the economic, social and environmental fields,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals on water and sanitation, including the Millennium Development Goals, and noting that there has been progress in halving by 2015 the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water,

Noting that accelerated efforts are needed to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to basic sanitation by 2015, and to develop integrated water resources

management and water efficiency plans at all levels, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of cooperation at all levels, including support to developing countries, for the achievement of these goals,

Noting also national, regional and international efforts to implement the International Year of Sanitation, 2008, the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013, and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and numerous recommendations from international and regional water and water-related events, with a view to taking concrete actions to accelerate progress at all levels towards achieving the internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Noting further the holding of the sixth World Water Forum in Marseille, France, from 12 to 17 March 2012, and noting that the seventh World Water Forum will be held in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015,

Noting that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, where the issue of integrated water resources management will be discussed, among other issues,

Noting also the World Water Development Reports, a joint project of United Nations agencies and entities,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;
2. *Welcomes* the activities related to water undertaken by Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and organizations of the United Nations system, inter alia, through inter-agency work, as well as contributions from major groups, for the observance of the International Year of Sanitation, 2008, the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013, and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015;
3. *Encourages* Member States, the Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system through their coordination mechanisms, including UN-Water, and major groups to accelerate their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”;
4. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene during the week following World Water Day on 22 March 2015 a one-day high-level interactive dialogue of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly in New York on a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade, including the best practices and lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development;
5. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Tajikistan to host and fund, in June 2015, a high-level international conference on the implementation of the Decade, as a contribution to the comprehensive review of the Decade;
6. *Stresses* the importance of the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and

local communities, in the implementation of the Decade at all levels and, as appropriate, in its comprehensive review;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with UN-Water, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, to engage, as appropriate, in the comprehensive review of the Decade and take appropriate actions to support Member States in the implementation of the Decade during its remaining period;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution elaborating, inter alia, on the evaluation of the Decade, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67.

Geospatial information

Global geospatial information management

Committee report. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management held its fourth session (New York, 6–8 August) [E/2014/46-E/C.20/2014/15], during which it brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council one draft decision for adoption. The Committee also adopted 12 decisions on a global geodetic reference frame; activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development; a global map for sustainable development; determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes; integration of geospatial, statistical and other information; trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management; development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information; development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management; legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data; implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community; reports by regional entities and thematic groups; and coordination of UN activities related to geospatial information management.

By **decision 2014/251** of 17 November, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Committee of Experts on its fourth session; decided that the fifth session of the Committee would be held in New York from 5 to 6 August 2015; and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for that session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 50], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management [E/2014/46], adopted **resolution 2014/31** without vote [agenda item 16 (i)].

A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, in which the Assembly endorsed the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, which included, inter alia, key actions to improve the efficiency and security of transport, search and rescue, geodesy and other activities by promoting the enhancement of, universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems, including Global Navigation Satellite systems,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), and means of implementation, which included, inter alia, strengthening cooperation and coordination among global observing systems and research programmes for integrated global observations, taking into account the need for building capacity and sharing of data from ground-based observations, satellite remote sensing and other sources among all countries,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

Noting its resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, by which the Council established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies, and emphasized the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in that field,

Noting also resolution 1, adopted on 1 November 2012 by the Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 29 October to 1 November 2012, in which the Conference, realizing the need to improve the sustainability and capability of the Global Geodetic Observing System and the need to encourage and support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as the foundation reference frame, urged the Committee of Experts to consult with Member States to adopt and sustain the global geodetic reference frame and provide a road map for its implementation, and to participate in and make commitments to the Global Geodetic Observing System to ensure its long-term sustainability,

Noting further decision 3/102, adopted by the Committee of Experts on 26 July 2013, in which the Committee agreed that actions should be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to be tabled at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in order to seek support and commitment

at the highest level, and requested the Secretariat to establish a working group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution through an open and inclusive process,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, as no one country can do this alone, to realize the global geodetic reference frame and services to underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems technology and provide the framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development,

Recognizing also the economic and scientific importance of and the growing demand for an accurate and stable global geodetic reference frame for the Earth that allows the inter-relationship of measurements taken anywhere on the Earth and in space, combining geometric positioning and gravity field-related observations, as the basis and reference in location and height for geospatial information, which is used in many Earth science and societal applications, including sea-level and climate change monitoring, natural hazard and disaster management and a whole series of industrial applications (including mining, agriculture, transport, navigation and construction) in which precise positioning introduces efficiencies,

Recognizing further the extraordinary achievements made by national mapping and space agencies, geodetic commissions, research organizations and universities and other international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors, building upon initiatives of the International Association of Geodesy, representing the global geodetic community, in measuring and monitoring changes in the Earth's system on a best-effort basis, including the development of the now adopted International Terrestrial Reference Frame,

Recognizing the investments of Member States in developing satellite missions for positioning and remote sensing of the Earth, supporting a range of scientific endeavours that improve our understanding of the "Earth system" and underpin decision-making, and recognizing that the full societal benefits of these investments are realized only if they are referenced to a common global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Recognizing with appreciation that some Member States are already implementing open geodetic data-sharing mechanisms for the benefit of realizing, improving and accessing the global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Acknowledging that the global geodetic reference frame depends upon the participation of countries all around the globe, and the need to take action to strengthen international cooperation,

1. *Endorses* decision 3/102 of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, whereby a working group should be established, with equitable regional representation, to develop a global geodetic road map that addresses key elements relating to the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame;

2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation in providing technical assistance, especially for capacity development in geodesy for developing countries, with the aim of ensuring the development, sustainability and advancement of the global geodetic reference frame;

3. *Urges* Member States to implement open sharing of geodetic data, standards and conventions to contribute to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and intergovernmental cooperation, and in coordination with the International Association of Geodesy;

4. *Invites* Member States to commit to improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the global geodetic reference frame;

5. *Also invites* Member States to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable global geodetic reference frame;

6. *Further invites* Member States to develop outreach programmes that make the global geodetic reference frame more visible and understandable to society;

7. *Recommends* the present resolution to the General Assembly for endorsement.

Standardization of geographical names

Group of experts. The twenty-eighth session [E/2014/78] of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (New York, 28 April–2 May) was held in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/257 [YUN 2013, p. 985]. The Group considered reports from its 10 working groups; liaison officers and international organizations; and the Task Team for Africa. It also discussed preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, scheduled to be held in New York from 8 to 17 August 2017, as well as the agenda for the planned twenty-ninth session of the Group. The Group proposed two draft decisions by the Economic and Social Council on the report of the Group of Experts and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session as well as an amendment to its rules of procedure.

By **decision 2014/240** of 16 July, the Economic and Social Council decided that the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts would be held from 25 to 29 April 2016 in Bangkok. Also on that date, by **decision 2014/241**, the Council approved an amendment to the rules of procedure of the Group of Experts, whereby the meetings of the Group and those of its working groups should be public, unless the Group should decide otherwise.

UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

By **decision 2014/252** of 17 November, the Economic and Social Council decided to accept the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 9 October 2015.