

Communication. By a letter dated 12 December letter [A/69/663], the Islamic Republic of Iran transmitted to the Secretary-General a copy of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the First International Conference on A World against Violence and Violent Extremism (Tehran, 9-10 December).

Sport for development and peace

The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), continued to lead UN system efforts to promote sport as a tool for attaining the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 49] and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals; lead and coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to promote the understanding and support amongst UN Member States and sport as a tool to attain the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; encourage dialogue, collaboration and partnerships between the United Nations, Member States, and other stakeholders around Sport for Development and Peace; and represent the Secretary-General and the UN system at important global sporting events and other important forums.

The Special Adviser noted that progress was made in five priority areas: contributing to the development of Africa (in particular to sub-Saharan Africa); encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding in conflict areas; advancing gender equality; fostering the inclusion of persons with disabilities; and promoting youth development and supporting community role models. Notably, the Special Adviser continued efforts to encourage dialogue between conflicting parties such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. He invited and met with officials from the two Koreas at the Imagine PEACE Youth Camp and at the Incheon Asian Games, held in South Korea, engaged in further exchanges with the two sides in order to strengthen diplomatic ties, and stated that his Office would continue playing a facilitation role between the two Koreas using upcoming sport events such as, but not limited to, the 2015 Summer Universiade and the 2015 World Military Games.

The Special Adviser also encouraged the Qatar 2022 (World Cup) Supreme Committee and other Qatari sport stakeholders to advance social progress and respect the human rights of migrant workers in the country, and led a UN System-wide response towards the Ebola crisis in West Africa in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). In July, the inauguration of the Sport of Hope Center, attended by the Secretary-General, the Special Adviser, and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, took place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This

event followed a commitment from the IOC to provide aid to help rebuild Haiti's sporting infrastructure after the earthquake that hit the country in 2010. To mark the first observance of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, which was declared by General Assembly resolution 67/296 [YUN 2013, p. 1073], UNOSDP organized a number of events to recognize and celebrate the growing number of sport-based development initiatives around the world.

Also, as part of the first observance of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, a High-level Panel Discussion on "Celebrating Sport for Development and Peace" was convened on 28 April at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event was attended by numerous representatives of the UN system, international sport organizations and professional athletes. At the event, a formal agreement was signed between the United Nations and the IOC to join hands in achieving common objectives, further highlighting the role of partnerships and cooperation to foster sustainable development through sport.

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/330], pursuant to resolution 67/17 [YUN 2012, p. 1070], the Secretary-General submitted a report on initiatives undertaken by Member States and UN entities to promote sport for development and peace since his last report on this subject [YUN 2012, p. 1069], including on the Olympic Truce of the 2014 Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Games; Human Rights Council and sport; inaugural International Day of Sport for Development and Peace; partnerships, initiatives, programmes and policies; and UN system activities related to the 2014 FIFA World Cup. He also provided an update on the activities and functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and its Trust Fund; reviewed the contribution of sport to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 49] and presented an updated Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace [A/67/282].

Solemn Appeal by the President of the General Assembly. On 29 January [A/68/710], the General Assembly President issued a solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce, calling on all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2014 Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and global levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce. Referring to the original tradition of the Olympic Truce practised in ancient times, as described in resolution 68/9 [YUN 2013, p. 1073], the President also called upon all warring parties of armed conflicts around the world to agree to true mutual ceasefires for the duration of the Olympic Truce, thus providing an opportunity to settle disputes peacefully.

On the same day, the General Assembly, at its seventy-third plenary meeting, took note of the solemn appeal made by the General Assembly President in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce (**decision 68/551**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 31 October [meeting 36], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/6** [draft: A/69/L.5 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 11].

Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003, 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, 62/271 of 23 July 2008, 63/135 of 11 December 2008, 65/4 of 18 October 2010 and 67/17 of 28 November 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 67/296 of 23 August 2013, in which it proclaimed 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Recalling further its resolution 68/9 of 6 November 2013 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and all its previous resolutions on this matter,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Sport for development and peace: realizing the potential”, which reviews the programmes and initiatives implemented by States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other partners, using sport as a tool for development and peace,

Acknowledging the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes as well as the role of Member States and their programmes abroad in promoting human development through sport and physical education,

Recognizing the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, noting that sport has the potential, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to foster intercultural dialogue, peace and development and to contribute to an atmosphere of harmony, tolerance and understanding, and reaffirming that sport is a tool for education that can promote cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion and cohesion, gender equality and health at the local, national and international levels, as declared in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels to maximize the potential of sport for contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

Encouraging Member States to give sport due consideration in the context of the post-2015 development agenda,

Acknowledging the importance of sport and physical activity in combating non-communicable diseases, as reflected in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Recalling the Declaration of Berlin, adopted by more than 120 States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the fifth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held in Berlin from 28 to 30 May 2013, as an essential guideline for strengthening the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education and for developing an international sport and physical education policy which fosters peace and understanding between peoples and which safeguards human rights in the world of sport by creating access to sport for all, improving physical education, developing new standards for mega and major sport events and preserving the integrity of sport,

Welcoming the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in April 2014, in which a call was made to strengthen efforts around sport-based initiatives that encourage social and economic development, as well as to strengthen the many partnerships that United Nations organizations have established with the Committee, and welcoming also the holding of the third International Forum on Sport for Peace and Development, jointly organized by the Committee and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic movement in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, and welcoming the XXXI Olympic Summer Games and the XV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August and from 7 to 18 September 2016, respectively, the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 9 to 25 February and from 9 to 18 March 2018, respectively, and the XXXII Olympic Summer Games and the XVI Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Tokyo from 24 July to 9 August and from 25 August to 6 September 2020, respectively,

Recognizing the importance of continental sporting events for promoting education, health, development and peace, and in this regard welcoming the upcoming 2015 Pan-American Games, to be held in Toronto, Canada, the eleventh All-Africa Games, to be held in Brazzaville, the 2018 Asian Games, to be held in Jakarta, and the inaugural 2015 European Games, to be held in Baku,

Acknowledging the Olympic Charter and that any form of discrimination is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement,

Acknowledging also the opportunities provided by the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games, held in Sochi, Russian Federation, for education, understanding, peace, harmony and tolerance among and between peoples and civilizations, and the opportunities provided by the second Youth Summer Olympic Games, held in Nanjing, China, to inspire the youth of the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values, as reflected in resolution 68/9 relating to the Olympic Truce,

Calling upon future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict-prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Acknowledging the International Inspiration programme, the first legacy initiative ever linked to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which has reached over 25 million children in 20 countries around the world through the power of high-quality and inclusive physical education, sport and play,

Recognizing the role that the International Paralympic Committee plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with an impairment to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to change societal perceptions of disability sport,

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children", stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, outlining the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, while also stipulating that States parties shall take appropriate measures to this end,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency,

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", encouraging Member States to implement and further develop the recommendations, and welcoming in this regard the efforts undertaken by the secretariat of the Working Group, which is provided by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Recognizing the need for indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards to assist Governments to enable the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development policies and programmes,

Recalling resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, by which the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the opportunities it provides for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in and through sport, and welcoming the continued advancement of women in sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressive high performance in sporting events, which provides opportunities for economic development through sports,

Highlighting the importance of continuing to reduce barriers to participation in sport events, particularly for participants from developing countries,

Emphasizing the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sport for development and peace

programmes, institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

Recognizing that major international sport events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind and that the unifying and conciliatory nature of such events should be respected, as recognized by fundamental principle 6 of the Olympic Charter,

1. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, including its peacekeeping missions, special political missions and integrated peacebuilding missions, sport-related organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives and promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda, by working along the following principles adapted from the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session:

(a) Global framework for sport for development and peace: further develop a framework to strengthen a common vision, define priorities and further raise awareness to promote and mainstream policies on sport for development and peace that are easily replicable;

(b) Policy development: promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies, including mechanisms for growth and wealth;

(c) Resource mobilization and programming: promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes and the private sector, to create effective programmes with sustainable impact;

(d) Evidence of impact: promote and facilitate common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards;

2. *Encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards, policies and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

3. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education, by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport programmes;

4. *Encourages* the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 1 above to emphasize and advance the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education, including physical education, for children and young persons, prevent disease and promote health, including the prevention of drug abuse, realize gender equality and empower girls and women, foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

5. *Encourages* the stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of mass sport events, to use and leverage such events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes, and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;

6. *Encourages* Member States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities among all members of society, and in this regard welcomes initiatives to adopt dedicated health, youth and sport days, including specialized sport days, at the national and local levels, as a means to promote physical and mental health and cultivate a sport culture in society;

7. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to designate a focal point for sport for development and peace within their governments and provide updates to the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace on institutional, policy and programme-related developments;

8. *Supports* the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement;

9. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, acceding to and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;

10. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce;

11. *Appreciates* the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, supported by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, on issues relating to sport for development and peace within the United Nations system and beyond, and their creation and implementation of innovative initiatives such as the Youth Leadership Programme;

12. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those committed to promoting sport as a tool for development and peace, and other stakeholders, such as international sports federations, organizers of global mass sports events, sports clubs and leagues, foundations and the private sector, especially businesses involved in the sports sector, to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace and to enter into innovative partnerships with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, which is funded exclusively through voluntary contributions, in order to sustain the mandate of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, ensure the continuous activities of the Office, including its provision of secretariat services to the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, and provide project implementation funding for the Office and the United Nations system at large;

13. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, which met for its thematic meeting on harnessing

the power of sport to address gender-based violence and its fourth plenary session, on 30 June and 1 July 2014, respectively, and the commencement of the substantive work of the thematic working group on sport and persons with disabilities, in addition to the working groups on sport and peace, sport and gender, and sport and child and youth development;

14. *Invites* Member States and other relevant stakeholders, as observers, to join and support the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, so as to further strengthen its work on all envisaged themes, including the pending thematic working group on sport and health;

15. *Encourages* Member States to join and participate in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and facilitate and encourage the integration of sport to support the achievement of the United Nations goals and objectives;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on specific initiatives aimed at ensuring more effective implementation of the Olympic Truce and progress made by Member States and the United Nations system, including activities and the functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, as well as other relevant stakeholders, towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace and the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group policy recommendations, and to provide a review of the contribution of sport to the promotion of the post-2015 development agenda and present an updated action plan on sport for development and peace;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Sport for development and peace”.

Culture and sustainable development

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/223 [YUN 2013, p. 1076], the Secretary-General transmitted a July [A/69/216] report from the UNESCO Director-General on progress made since July 2013 in implementing that resolution through the activities undertaken by Member States and UN organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It also included options for a consolidated UN approach to the role of culture for poverty eradication and sustainable development through inclusive economic and social development and environmental sustainability.

As mandated by resolution 68/223, a special thematic debate on “Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda” was convened at UN Headquarters in May 2014 by the President of the General Assembly, in partnership with UNESCO. Participants included 18 Government Ministers and high-level representatives of Member States, the G-77 plus China, the European Union, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, the

UNESCO Director-General, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, the President of the UNESCO General Conference, and the Chairperson of the UNESCO Executive Board. The participants highlighted the importance of integrating culture into the post-2015 development agenda. Also, in May, the global campaign “#culture2015goal”, a coalition of more than 600 NGOs working in the field of culture, published a declaration on the need to include explicit targets and indicators for culture in the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

The Director-General highlighted the efforts of Member States and UN system entities in implementing specific measures to enhance the role of culture, covering the areas of promoting cultural diversity through education and the media; enabling women and men to equally access, participate and contribute to cultural life; developing a dynamic cultural and creative sector; supporting the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services; promoting global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity; developing innovative mechanisms of financing for culture; and mobilizing culture as a vehicle for tolerance, understanding, peace and reconciliation. In June, a declaration adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Group recommended that the role of culture be fully taken into account to achieve sustainable development as development was “a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process”.

The Director-General proposed a set of options for Member States to consider while devising a consolidated UN approach on culture and sustainable development. Those included integrating culture in development strategies and policies at all levels; developing cultural literacy, including an understanding of cultural heritage; safeguarding traditional knowledge and skills; and increasing access to and participation in cultural life of all individuals and communities to improve social cohesion. The Director-General also recommended that Member States fully integrate culture, through cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries, into the framework of the post-2015 system of goals, targets and indicators.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/230** on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/470/Add.2] without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

Culture and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996,

52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, 65/166 of 20 December 2010 and 66/208 of 22 December 2011, concerning culture and development, and its resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and 68/223 of 20 December 2013 on culture and sustainable development,

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,

Recalling further the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries,

1. *Takes note* of the report on culture and sustainable development prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as transmitted by the Secretary-General, which identifies options for a consolidated United Nations approach on culture and sustainable development;

2. *Recalls* the discussions at and takes note of the Chair’s summary of the special thematic debate of the General Assembly on the role of culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 May 2014, as mandated by its resolution 68/223, at which high-level participants highlighted the importance of integrating culture into the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Notes* the contribution of culture to sustainable development, as recognized in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to continue to give due consideration to culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Recalls* the decision, in its resolution 68/223, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, a sub-item entitled “Culture and sustainable development” and to maintain the biennial nature of the sub-item.

United Nations research and training institutes United Nations University

The Council of the United Nations University (UNU) (Rome, 12–13 May; Tokyo, Japan, 8–9 December) adopted the statute of the UNU Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance; reviewed the progress and status of ongoing and new institutional development initiatives; approved the text of the host country agreement and bilateral agreement; adopted the statute of the consolidated UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability; adopted the UNU

strategic plan 2015–2019; considered and approved a revised biennial programme and budget for 2014–2015; and reviewed the progress made towards the establishment of a UNU Institute on Human Resources and Economic Development in Dakar, Senegal.

In 2014, the UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) was established at the UNU Centre in Tokyo as part of a broader effort by the UNU Rector to respond to the Secretary-General's request to enhance UNU policy relevance in the fields of peace and security as well as in global development. The core mission of UNU-CPR was to generate policy research that spoke to major debates in the wider UN community as well as the Secretary-General's priorities. Another highlight was the formation of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) which was formed through the merger of the University's two Japan-based research and training institutes: the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace. The proposal to consolidate the two institutes was endorsed by the UNU Council in April 2013, and the new UNU-IAS was formally inaugurated on 1 January 2014.

In 2014, the research work of UNU focused on five interdependent thematic clusters: development governance, global change and sustainable development, peace, security and human rights, population and health and science, technology and society. UNU implemented 178 research projects (60 new, 70 ongoing, 48 completed during the year), of which 114 (64 per cent) were primarily focused on or in developing countries. UNU researchers published 34 books and 81 chapters in edited volumes, 233 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 44 other articles, and 13 special journal issues. UNU also published 304 working and discussion papers, 34 policy briefs, and 51 research/technology briefs, as well as numerous website articles, videos/podcasts, proceedings and conference papers.

During the year, UNU received \$46.9 million in contributions from 22 Governments and some 112 additional sources.

United Nations System Staff College

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/214 [YUN 2005, p. 1527] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/14 [YUN 2013, p. 1084], the Secretary-General transmitted a report to the Economic and Social Council covering the activities of the United Nations System Staff College over the 2013–2014 biennium, focusing on the College's outreach efforts, impact of services, substantive course portfolio and strategic orientation. He reported that the Staff College made notable progress in terms of increasing the number of UN staff participating in its programmes, the level and diversification of its partnerships, the thematic focus of its courses and the quality of its

services. In 2013, the College reached more than 9,000 beneficiaries with its courses, workshops and knowledge products, while in 2014 the overall number of beneficiaries exceeded 16,000. The combined figure represented an increase of 23 per cent over the 2011–2012 biennium, while the 2014 figure represented a historical peak. The year 2014 also saw an important increase over 2013 in terms of the value and number of partnership contracts signed with UN system entities, which amounted to 56 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively.

The Secretary-General also detailed the Staff College's key institutional achievements in terms of strengthening its efficiency, effectiveness, accountability in delivering results, and collaboration and partnerships. Regarding the financial situation of the College, total income in 2014 amounted to \$7.39 million. The College maintained its previous trend of self-generating a major portion of its income. It self-generated 65 per cent of its income in 2013 and 74 per cent in 2014 despite the decreasing resources of United Nations entities following the 2008 global financial crisis and its direct impact on funding available for learning and training activities.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States and UN system entities provide full support to the Staff College in its efforts to deliver appropriately contemporary and forward-looking range of capacity-building measures for UN staff. In particular, Member States were encouraged to work with the College to ensure shared ownership of the change process and to support the College in consolidating a resource base commensurate with the its interlinked tasks.

Education for All

Literacy for life

In July [A/69/183], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/132 [YUN 2013, p. 1085], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly a report from the UNESCO Director-General on the implementation of that resolution and the process of elaborating a literacy vision and agenda for the period subsequent to the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) [YUN 2001, p. 1052].

The Director-General reported that there had been steady progress in the global literacy landscape. Global literacy rates for persons aged between 15 and 24 years had increased from 83 per cent in 1990 to 87 per cent in 2000 and 89 per cent in 2012. The absolute number of non-literate adults had fallen from 884 million in 1990 to 787 million in 2000 and 781 million in 2012. However, progress proved uneven across regions and countries. Three quarters of the global non-literate adult population lived in South Asia, West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Women still constituted two thirds of the world's non-literate population. Low lit-

eracy skills were also a concern in many high-income countries. The European Commission, for example, noted that in Europe, an estimated 20 per cent of adults lacked the literacy skills they needed to function fully in a modern society. Based on the prevailing trends, it was projected that 751 million adults, including 103 million young people aged between 15 and 24 years old, would lack basic literacy skills by 2015, and only 36 countries and territories were likely to achieve or exceed Education of All (goal 4)—achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults. The Director-General stressed that literacy was a global challenge and an unfinished agenda item that had to be urgently addressed.

As part of its drive to continue playing a catalytic role in the global literacy agenda, UNESCO proposed five strategic themes for the period subsequent to the 2003–2012 Literacy Decade: developing the capacities of Member States in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments; scaling up literacy actions for girls and women; reinforcing innovative modes of literacy delivery, including through the use of information and communication technologies; expanding the knowledge base and monitoring and evaluation; and advocating for literacy on the global agenda and ensuring synergies between different actions, including through a multi-stakeholder partnership and networks.

The Director-General proposed that the General Assembly consider the following six recommendations: recognize literacy as a foundation for lifelong learning, as well as a building block for achieving basic human rights and sustainable development; encourage Governments to seek innovative solutions to accelerate literacy efforts and create institutional frameworks and systems for literacy and lifelong learning, and translate political commitment into dependable financing, robust programming and improvement-oriented monitoring; call upon countries, development partners, UN system entities and civil society to promote literacy and literate environments; express its support to the five strategic axes proposed for the global literacy agenda; urge countries to consider integrating literacy into the post-2015 global development and education agenda as an education and development imperative; and encourage UNESCO to continue to strengthen its role in coordinating and catalysing global efforts towards scaling up literacy in the period subsequent to the United Nations Literacy Decade.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/141** on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480] without vote [agenda item 26 (d)].

Literacy for life: shaping future agendas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, and its resolutions 59/149 of 20 December 2004, 61/140 of 19 December 2006, 63/154 of 18 December 2008, 65/183 of 21 December 2010 and 68/132 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys would have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming the Education for All goals, in particular goal 3, on ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes, and goal 4, on achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, young person and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they may face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous peoples to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States, and recognizing the importance of effective measures to promote access for indigenous individuals, in particular children, to education in their own language, whenever possible, as addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 781 million adults do not have basic literacy skills and 58 million children of primary and 63 million children of secondary school age remain out of school, that an estimated 250 million children of primary school age are failing to acquire basic literacy skills, that millions more young people leave school without a level of literacy adequate for productive and active participation in their societies, that the issue of literacy may not be sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global literacy challenges and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if present trends continue,

Recognizing that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning, a building block for achieving human rights and fundamental freedoms and a driver of sustainable development and that the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) had a catalytic effect as a global framework for sustained and focused efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments,

Welcoming the convening of the International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka

and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration,

Taking note of the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which 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, and acknowledging that it includes a goal on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all with a stand-alone target on literacy,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of human rights, gender equality and the eradication of poverty, as well as to development,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures to eliminate illiteracy worldwide as reflected in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, adopted on 28 April 2000 at the World Education Forum, and in the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard also recognizing the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women,

Concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, one third of the children not attending school are children with disabilities and that the literacy rate among adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent in some countries,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies on efforts to promote literacy skills, especially for all children and young people,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas";

2. *Commends* the efforts made by Member States, their development partners, the international donor community, the private sector, civil society and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the lead organization of the United Nations Literacy Decade, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in promoting the right to education, including by making progress on the goals of the Decade;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures for everyone to acquire, use and advance literacy skills in order to eliminate illiteracy worldwide, enhancing further political and financial commitments, in particular for youth and adult literacy and non-formal education, intensifying collective efforts through enhanced education systems and interventions and building a robust knowledge and technical base through improved literacy monitoring, assessment and research;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to develop reliable measures of literacy and generate data that are comparable across time and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socio-economic status, geographical location (urban/rural areas) and other relevant factors;

5. *Encourages* Member States, their development partners and the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to sustain and expand the gains achieved during the Decade through improving the integration of literacy into sector-wide and multisectoral education and development strategies, expanding the provision of quality literacy programmes, enhancing education systems to provide quality basic education through schooling, enriching literate environments to allow people to acquire, use and advance literacy skills and promoting literacy for women and girls, as well as for marginalized groups, for their empowerment and inclusion in societies;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its coordinating and catalysing role in the fight against illiteracy, including in the context of the agenda for the period following the United Nations Literacy Decade, through developing Member States' capacities in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments, scaling up literacy actions for girls and women, reinforcing innovative models of literacy delivery, including through information and communications technologies, and expanding the knowledge base and monitoring and evaluation, as well as advocating literacy on the global agenda and ensuring synergies between different actions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks;

7. *Encourages* efforts to provide education for all, especially for boys and girls, in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

8. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of literacy in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas".