



## Prologue

This report is submitted pursuant to the “United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended” (Public Law 264, 79th Congress). Section 4 provides in relevant part:

“The President shall from time to time as occasion may require, but not less than once each year, make reports to the Congress of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein.”

The intent of the report is (1) to keep Congress informed of UN activities and of those of U.S. representatives in that organization, and (2) to provide for an official channel of information to the public on these matters.

The president’s report is a survey of select U.S Government activities and policies in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as of the activities of the United Nations and those specialized agencies themselves. More specifically, this report describes what the United Nations accomplished, what trends are evolving, what new issues have surfaced in a given year, and where the United States succeeded or failed in achieving its goals.

The present report covers calendar year 2001. As with previous years, it is organized thematically and divided into eight parts:

- *Political and Security Issues* comprises country-specific assessments focused on UN Security Council and General Assembly actions and peacekeeping operations, disarmament issues, and a section on special political issues, including international terrorism;
- *Reform of the UN System* describes progress on reform of UN management and peacekeeping and on efforts to review public information activities;
- *Economic and Social Affairs* assesses the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the General Assembly, and the variety of subsidiary bodies and commissions on issues including human rights, the status of women, and crime prevention and control.
- *Development and Humanitarian Relief Activities* focuses on the UN bodies responsible for implementing UN programs in these areas, such as the UN Development Program (UNDP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF);

- *Science, Technology and Research* looks at environmental issues and the work of the UN Environment Program;
- *Legal Developments* covers the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) caseload as well as the work of other judicial bodies, such as the War Crimes Tribunals in Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia;
- *Administration and Budget* provides an overview of the UN's current financial situation and resource management issues; and
- *Specialized Agencies* describes the work of a host of agencies from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to the World Health Organization (WHO), and assesses how they serve U.S. interests.

In 2001, the terrorist attacks of September 11 in the United States redefined the agenda for the United Nations. The Security Council, the General Assembly, and the UN's specialized agencies acted swiftly to strengthen international engagement in the fight against terrorism. Both the Security Council and the General Assembly held emergency meetings on September 12 and adopted resolutions condemning the attacks. Governing bodies in virtually all of the specialized agencies also adopted resolutions condemning terrorism as well as countries that sponsor or harbor terrorists. Key agencies, such as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), also took steps to strengthen their counter-terrorism and security programs.

President Bush, in his speech before the 56th UN General Assembly in November, evoked the memory of September 11 and called on civilized nations to unite for a long struggle against terrorism. He also expressed gratitude to the United Nations for its "strong and principled stand:"

"We meet in a hall devoted to peace, in a city scarred by violence, in a nation awakened to danger, in a world uniting for a long struggle. Every nation has a stake in this cause... We're asking for a comprehensive commitment to this fight. We must unite in opposing all terrorists .... This struggle is a defining moment for the United Nations."

Rallying the United Nations to the fight against terrorism was the dominant but not exclusive U.S. concern during 2001. The United States also focused on other issues before the United Nations. Among the most prominent, HIV/AIDS benefited from renewed political commitment to a global effort. At the 26th UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, Secretary of State Powell led the U.S. delegation in helping to forge agreement on a Declaration of Commitment. The Secretary-General and the Special Session promoted the formation of a Global Fund to fight the disease, and President Bush made the first pledge by any government to the Fund. The President also underscored the United States' commitment to combat AIDS in his speech before the General Assembly.

The United States also succeeded in promoting human rights, peace-keeping reform, and UN budget reform. The United States continued to have differences, however, with other UN members—in the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) and other bodies—on issues such as the Middle East, economic rights, some arms control matters, and climate change.

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Questions about this report may be directed to the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

