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Report 2003 on Switzerland's co-operation with the United Nations and with international organisations domiciled in Switzerland

26 February 2003

Dear Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased to present the 2003 report on Switzerland's co-operation with the United Nations and with international organisations domiciled in Switzerland. This report, which deals with Switzerland's activities within the UN since it became a full member and which attaches special importance to the first months of the 57th session of the UN General Assembly, is submitted by the Federal Council to the United Federal Assembly in response to two postulates – Zäch, 02.3063 (14 March 2002) and Müller-Hemmi, 02.3114 (21 March 2002) – and an interpellation (Frick, 02.3042, 11 March 2002). The report also describes the main directions of the medium-term policy Switzerland plans to pursue within the UN, and, in response to a postulate submitted by Maury Pasquier on 18 October 1998 (98.3482), it sets out to provide an overview of Switzerland's activities as host country to international organisations. Finally, it outlines how Switzerland plans to proceed as a candidate so that it will be adequately represented in responsible positions within the UN.

Yours respectfully,

26 February 2003

On behalf of the Swiss Federal Council
Federal President: Pascal Couchepin
Federal Chancellor: Annemarie Huber-Hotz

Summary

Switzerland became a full member of the United Nations on 10 September 2002 and in doing so met one of the Federal Council's priorities for the 1999-2003 legislative period.

In the view of the Federal Council, firmly anchoring Switzerland's international commitments within its domestic policy is of the utmost importance. In this first annual report on Switzerland's co-operation with the United Nations and international organisations based in Switzerland, it incorporates the traditional "Report on activities of international organisations domiciled in Switzerland". Its aim is to provide the elected representatives of the people and cantons with the opportunity to inform themselves about Switzerland's achievements and experiences with the United Nations and about its priorities for its medium-term commitments.

The Federal Council's assessment of Switzerland's participation in activities within the United Nations as a full member is fundamentally positive. The 57th General Assembly session, which convened on 10 September 2002, concluded the business for its main session in December, and this provided an opportunity to make an initial evaluation of new avenues which opened up to Switzerland after it became a full member.

Switzerland's neutrality, which was expressly referred to in its membership application, was acknowledged by both the Security Council and the General Assembly, and has at no time been placed in question. As a full member, Switzerland is now able to put forward its viewpoints more vigorously and safeguard its own interests more effectively. It is also able to seize the initiative, often in association with actions in priority areas, within the scope of the General Assembly. With respect to Iraq, Switzerland supported the implementation of UN resolutions calling for disarmament and weapons inspections. At the same time it stated that, in the event of any subsequent use of force, it was essential to involve the UN Security Council. Switzerland also pointed to the humanitarian consequences and threats facing the civilian population in the event of an armed conflict.

The Federal Council intends to pursue its commitment within the United Nations in a goal-oriented manner. Objectives need to be regularly evaluated and refined as necessary to take into account both national and international developments.

The Federal Council places great value on Switzerland's policy of acting as a host country. This is of special importance with respect to Switzerland's role within the UN. The Federal Council aims to use Switzerland's membership as well as possible to promote Geneva as an international centre and represent the country's own interests.

Report

1 Introduction

Switzerland officially became a full member of the United Nations on 10 September 2002 and in doing so met one of the Federal Council's main priorities for the 1999-2003 legislative period¹. In its "Foreign Policy Report 2000"², the Federal Council cited membership of the UN as Switzerland's main foreign policy objective during this period. Joining the UN was the culmination of many years of efforts on the part of the Federal Council, active support on the part of Parliament, and a people's initiative launched on 8 September 1998 by a non-partisan committee. The initiative was formally submitted in March 2000 and was accepted by the electorate and cantons on 3 March 2002.

Throughout the entire process, the Federal Council constantly discussed the issue with Parliament, political parties, social and economic organisations, and all other interest groups. In 1998 it published a "Report on relations between Switzerland and the United Nations"³ at the request of Parliament, and much of the content of this document is still valid today.

The referendum of 3 March 2002 was preceded by intense debate on all social fronts. The main topics were the role of the United Nations, Switzerland's place in the world, the rights and potentials of Swiss membership, changes since the previous vote in March 1986, the financial consequences of joining the UN, and the question of preserving Switzerland's neutrality.

After the initiative was submitted, the Federal Council initiated a consultation procedure in the summer and autumn of 2000. On the basis of the results it decided in favour of pursuing the goal of joining the UN, to accept the initiative and to recommend approval.

In December 2000, the Federal Council submitted its "Message to Parliament concerning the people's initiative calling for Switzerland's membership of the United Nations", in which it explained the issue and the reasons why Switzerland should join⁴. It also pointed out that the objectives of the UN Charter correspond to those defined in Switzerland's foreign policy. Membership of the United Nations would therefore help Switzerland achieve its foreign policy objectives within a multilateral, global framework, while at the same time safeguarding its own interests when searching for global solutions.

Following the positive outcome of the vote of 3 March 2002, the Federal Council examined a preparatory document for the 57th UN General Assembly, listing Switzerland's initial priorities after becoming a full member. Because it attaches great importance to firmly anchoring Switzerland's domestic policy to its foreign policy commitments, the Federal Council was anxious to inform and consult both Parliament and the civil society. In summer 2002, the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committees were given the opportunity to discuss the declared priorities. A high-level parliamentary delegation, comprising the President of the National Council, the President of the Council of States and the presidents of both foreign affairs committees, attended the ceremony on 10 September at UN headquarters in New York at which Switzerland was formally accepted as a full member.

On 14 August 2002, the Swiss-United Nations Association (Gesellschaft Schweiz – Vereinte Nationen, GSVN) organised a conference in Berne attended by a large number of representatives from non-governmental organisations active in spheres of UN interest. The GSVN subsequently submitted a programme to the Federal Council outlining the views and wishes expressed by the representatives concerning Switzerland's UN policy.

In mid-October, the head of the DFA submitted a detailed report to the Foreign Affairs Committees concerning the progress of activities within the scope of the General Assembly, and Switzerland's initial experiences as a full member. As already announced during the campaign, and in accordance with the various motions submitted in Parliament after the vote⁵, the Federal Council undertook to produce an annual report on Switzerland and the United Nations, the aim of which is to inform the elected representatives of the people and the cantons about Switzerland's activities within the UN since joining, and to comment on these in detail.

Section 2 of this report contains an assessment of activities from the point of view of promoting Switzerland's interests within the scope of its activities at the General Assembly and in other UN forums. It also provides an overview of the priorities Switzerland aims to pursue within the United Nations in the medium term. Section 3 deals with the activities of international organisations based in Switzerland, and Switzerland's commitments as host country to UN organisations. Section 4 outlines the procedures relating to candidatures and the election of Swiss citizens for positions within the United Nations.

¹ Report on 1999-2003 legislative period, BBl 2000 2276.

² Foreign Policy Report 2000: "Presence and co-operation: safeguarding interests in a merging world" 15 November 2000, BBl 2001 261.

³ This report was prepared in response to Postulate 97.3320, which was submitted by National Councillor Andreas Gross on 18 June 1997. It was preceded by a motion put forward by National Councillor Remo Gysin on 5 June 1997, requesting the Federal Council to take measures to prepare for Switzerland's membership of the United Nations. The Federal Council declared that it was willing to accept this motion as binding after it had been approved by a large majority in both chambers.

⁴ This document and a variety of other texts concerning Switzerland's accession to the UN are available on the Internet (www.uno.admin.ch).

⁵ Postulates submitted by Zäch (14 March 2002, 02.3063) and Müller-Hemmi (21 March 2002, 02.3114); interpellation submitted by Frick on 11 March 2002 (02.3042).

2 Switzerland's co-operation with the UN
2.1 Switzerland's commitments within the UN since its accession
2.1.1 The UN as a platform for international co-operation

In its message to Parliament of December 2000 concerning the people's initiative calling for Switzerland's membership of the United Nations, the Federal Council emphasised the importance of the UN as an organisation whose resolutions enjoy a high level of legitimacy throughout the world, and drew attention to the significant role the UN plays in solving major international problems. The developments that have meanwhile taken place at the international level make it even clearer that the UN is essential as a negotiating platform, as an instrument for peace and international security and as the main forum in the North-South dialogue.

In the "Millennium Declaration", approved by the 55th UN General Assembly in September 2000 – which the Swiss President attended as an observer – the heads of state and government leaders emphasised the major role the UN has in creating a more peaceful, more affluent and more just world in the 21st century. With this declaration, the international community at this global forum made specific commitments in key areas of multilateral co-operation, setting itself clear objectives in the areas of peace, security and disarmament, sustainable development, poverty reduction, environment protection, human rights, democracy and good governance, protection of vulnerable groups and strengthening the UN. In 2001, the General Assembly approved a plan aimed at implementing these commitments involving, in particular, decisions concerning UN reforms. As a result the USA – which had said that it would settle its arrears to the UN only on condition that these reforms were approved – agreed to pay its full membership dues.

Efforts to bridge the North-South gap – one of the greatest challenges currently facing the international community – were discussed at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey 18 - 22 March 2002. This was followed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 26 August - 4 September 2002. The 57th session of the General Assembly, which began 10 September 2002 and closes at the end of September 2003⁶, is of immense importance because it will verify the extent to which the Millennium Declaration has been implemented and assess progress in the follow-up to the major international conferences. During the debates in October 2002 on this topic, the UN Secretary-General stated clearly that significant efforts were required on the part of member states if the international community was to achieve the objectives it had set itself, adding that insufficient progress had been made to date.

The international community also declared its intention to combat the grave threat to peace and security presented by extremist movements and acts of terrorism, and called on the UN to play a major role. Members agreed almost unanimously that the UN was the only body with the necessary legitimacy in terms of international law to supervise disarmament in Iraq and to decide on military intervention. It was only thanks to intensive efforts on the diplomatic front that weapons inspectors could return to Iraq, a significant step clearly demonstrating the indispensable role of the UN.

2.1.2 Initial assessment of Switzerland's activities as a full member of the UN

On 10 September 2002, the UN General Assembly warmly welcomed Switzerland as its 190th member⁷, after the President of the Security Council – which is the body responsible for recommending the admission of new members – had referred to the event as "historic".

In his accession speech in New York, Swiss President Kaspar Villiger emphasised his country's readiness to participate constructively, as well as critically, in the activities of the United Nations. Above all he recalled that Switzerland was joining the UN as a neutral country, reaffirming the principle that Switzerland had expressed in its application for membership. The Secretary-General, Security Council and General Assembly all expressed their understanding and respect for this wish and took note of it. The fact that Switzerland has been able to contribute fruitfully to the activities of the UN General Assembly and to speak out on all decisions, shows that neutrality is fully compatible with UN membership.

Following its formal acceptance, Switzerland was immediately able to participate in the activities of the General Assembly. This participation was carefully prepared in advance so that the Swiss delegation, with the full support of the services concerned within the federal administration, could efficiently represent the country. During the traditional general debate attended by numerous ministers and heads of state, Federal Councillor Joseph Deiss – in his capacity as head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – outlined Switzerland's priorities at the United Nations. These include in particular peace policy, human security, human rights, strengthening of international law, and development co-operation. At the same time he was also able to establish countless bilateral contacts.

Both in plenary session and in the six General Assembly committees, Switzerland tried to obtain an overview of the 170 matters on the General Assembly agenda, and participated in all votes. Of the more than 300 resolutions debated by the General Assembly (most of which were adopted by consensus), Switzerland supported some 60 proposals as co-sponsor – and put forward two itself⁸. As an active member of the UN, Switzerland has been able to state its own views and present its own positions without having to rely on the assistance of like-minded countries as in the past. It addressed the General Assembly plenary session eight times and the six committees 25

⁶ Each UN General Assembly session runs a full year. The most intense period of activity is between September – when each session is opened – and December.

⁷ The reference for the resolution concerning the accession of the Swiss Confederation to the United Nations is A/Res/57/1.

⁸ One of these concerned mountains, the other concerned the World Summit on the Information Society.

times. It also intervened four times in public debates in the Security Council on matters to which it attached special importance.

During the negotiations on topics arranged in order of priority⁹, the Swiss delegation played an active role. It stated its arguments and spoke out in favour of values with which Switzerland strongly identifies. It contributed to the success of a number of resolutions by arranging negotiations, taking formal and informal measures and providing mediators. The mechanisms it used for holding consultations, formulating resolutions, passing on instructions and preparing interventions generally functioned well. It evaluates these constantly and adapts them as necessary to ensure that Switzerland can use its new status to the full.

The Swiss delegation ascertained that it was regarded as a highly-valued partner in discussions and negotiations by other delegations wanting to put forward their own views and initiatives. As a result, Switzerland's official representatives were able to establish contacts with delegates from other countries and intensify their relations with the UN Secretariat. These contacts are viewed as positive by both sides.

Generally speaking, the interest shown in Switzerland by other member states exceeded expectations. This may be regarded as recognition of the fact that Switzerland's foreign policy is firmly based on the rule of law, and that it promotes values it holds dear, without a hidden agenda. As a result, Switzerland has a political profile that is highly esteemed. It enjoys considerable credibility that is based on reliability, predictability and the independence of its decisions. In this respect, Switzerland's membership of the United Nations – and this is perhaps the main lesson that can be drawn from its first General Assembly session as an active member – may be seen as both an opportunity and a challenge.

At the financial level, Switzerland paid its dues as an observer for the period from 1 January to 30 September and as a full member for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2002. These were approximately SFr. 6.7 million lower than anticipated thanks to the cut in the budget for peacekeeping operations and the weak US dollar (see Appendix 1 for precise figures).

Swiss membership was also successful from the point of view of candidatures for positions within the organisation. Professor Walter Kälin was elected a member of the Human Rights Committee, which is responsible for implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Switzerland also holds a seat for three years on the UN Planning and Coordination Committee, which is the most important sub-committee of the Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, and the UN General Assembly for planning, co-ordinating and monitoring UN activities. Furthermore, Switzerland is now a full member of the Commission for Social Development, CSocD, until 2005. Prior to UN membership it had observer status. Ambassador Jean-Jacques Elmiger was elected Chairman of this commission for 2004.

Switzerland also holds the presidency of the Executive Board of UNICEF for 2003 and is represented by Ambassador Jenö Staehelin. Ambassador Jean-Marc Boulgaris was elected vice president of the Executive Committee of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, for 2003, and is expected to assume the presidency in 2004. Within the scope of the 57th General Assembly session, Swiss diplomat Valentin Zellweger successfully assumed the vice presidency of the 6th Committee, which is responsible for the codification and development of international law. And in January 2003, Switzerland took over as head of the West European and Others Group, WEOG, for the first time. We shall be taking a close look at the planning for future candidatures in the final chapter of this report.

It is traditional for new UN members to present a gift upon joining. Switzerland offered to renovate and reorganise an office complex next to the General Assembly, which is used for high-level meetings between the UN and heads of state and government leaders. This task was entrusted to Swiss architects and designers.

2.1.3 Peace, security and disarmament

The preservation of world peace and international security as set down in Article 1 of the UN Charter is the core mandate and main priority of the world body. The Millennium Declaration which was approved in September 2000 underscored the importance of this objective for the UN, and cites a variety of ways in which it will be possible to achieve it in the future. This document emphasises the importance of compliance with international law and the implementation of treaties, and calls for a strengthening of the operational capabilities of the UN – not just for preserving peace, but also for the prevention of armed conflicts, the peaceful resolution of disputes and for the post-conflict phases of peace consolidation and reconstruction.

The *Iraq crisis* gave a special dimension to the debates during the 57th General Assembly session on the role of the UN and the means by which it performs its mandate with respect to the preservation of peace and security. This applied both to the General Assembly and to the Security Council. After intensive consultations, the latter unanimously passed Resolution 1441 on 8 November 2002, which paved the way for UN weapons inspectors to return to Iraq with the assurance of more satisfactory conditions for carrying out their work. This confirmed the role of the Security Council in the preservation of peace and international security and asserted the authority of the UN.

Switzerland presented its own position on the Iraq crisis in a declaration to the General Assembly by the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as by an intervention during a debate in the Security Council on 17 October 2002. On both occasions, Switzerland stated emphatically that it was opposed to the proliferation of

⁹ These priorities were outlined in a brochure entitled "The 57th UN General Assembly: first session including Switzerland as a full member". Copies may be ordered from the DFA UN Co-ordination Office or downloaded from www.uno.admin.ch.

weapons of mass destruction, and favoured implementing the UN resolutions on disarmament and weapons inspections in Iraq. At the same time, it emphasised that all diplomatic options to avoid war should be exhausted, and that it was essential for the Security Council to be involved in the use of military force. Finally, Switzerland urged that full consideration be given to the humanitarian consequences of such action, together with the risks to the civilian population.

In accordance with this stance, Switzerland supported efforts aimed at securing the return of UN weapons inspectors to Iraq without delay through a number of specific measures. It chose this course partly because it has always strongly opposed the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and because it hoped – together with a large part of the international community – that resolute action by the UN would lessen the risk of war in Iraq. At the UN's request, Switzerland restored the former headquarters of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspections Commission in Baghdad, dispatching two groups of around 30 military personnel from the Fortification Guard to Iraq for this task. In addition, one representative of the Federal Customs Administration and one from the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peace Building joined the UN team of inspectors, primarily to search for dual-purpose goods and biological weapons.

During the 57th UN General Assembly session, the attention of the international community also focused on other parts of the *Middle East*. The UN Secretary-General is a member of the "Quartet" comprising the USA, Russia, the UN and the EU. The group is a central player in ongoing efforts to bring the peace process back on track. The UN also plays a key role in the area of humanitarian aid in the region through UNRWA, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East. At the General Assembly plenary debate, Switzerland clearly presented its stance on the situation in the Middle East, condemning acts of terrorism as well as the indiscriminate use of military force and the construction and expansion of settlements in the occupied territories. It again emphasised the importance of complying with the right to just and lasting peace in the region as well as with international humanitarian law and the resolutions of the Security Council. Switzerland also used its UN membership to promote its humanitarian initiative for the Middle East.

Switzerland stated its position on approximately 20 resolutions concerning the Middle East during the General Assembly session, supporting those matching its own stance on protecting the civilian population in the occupied territories and on the illegal nature of the annexation of East Jerusalem. However, it abstained on resolutions that it regarded as partisan or one-sided.

Multilateral diplomacy is playing an increasingly important role in the area of *prevention and settlement of conflicts*. The UN Secretary-General is especially active in the areas of mediation and provision of good offices, having named almost 40 representatives and special delegates. As a member of the UN, Switzerland is now able to pursue its tradition of providing good offices in a multilateral context. Shortly after the vote on 3 March 2002, Kofi Annan appointed a Swiss diplomat – Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini – as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia. Her job is to help find a political solution to the crisis in Abkhazia. Another Swiss diplomat – Didier Pfirter – was assigned to work with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Cyprus problem. As the leading legal consultant, he was intensively involved in drawing up the peace plan proposed in mid-November 2002, which essentially sees a federal system in which the Swiss Constitution partly served as a model.

In October 2002, Switzerland financed and supported the *annual conference* of special envoys and representatives of the UN Secretary-General at *Mont Pèlerin* in Canton Vaud. The purpose of this conference was to give participants an opportunity to exchange experiences and intensify their know-how in the area of conflict transformation. Through this form of co-operation, which also opens up opportunities for establishing useful contacts, Switzerland strengthens the UN's options for action.

Switzerland contributed at both the civilian and the military level to *operations aimed at preserving and consolidating peace*. The Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peace Building, which was established by the DFA, co-ordinated the placement of some 30 specialists within the UN. At the military level, Switzerland placed approximately 20 officers at the disposal of the UN, most of who were deployed as military observers. In 2002, both the number of personnel placed at the UN's disposal (approximately 250, including Swisscoy) as well as the proportion of the military budget reserved for such operations (around 1%), were still modest in comparison with countries of a similar size.

Over the past few years, Switzerland has been actively promoting the concept of *targeted sanctions*, which are aimed directly at the parties responsible, thus protecting civilian populations and third countries as far as possible. Sanctions of this type include blocking assets¹⁰, limited embargoes on specific categories of goods (weapons, diamonds, oil, other natural resources), and restrictions on travel and visas. Switzerland's membership of the UN has added credibility and weight to its efforts to improve sanctions instruments, as it is now on an equal footing with other countries. In 2002, representatives from countries especially interested in this matter – including Switzerland – met in Sweden on a number of occasions to discuss ways in which targeted sanctions could be implemented more effectively. The results of these discussions were submitted to the Security Council in February 2003.

Armed conflicts are frequently characterised by a criminalisation of the war-time economy and illegal exploitation of natural resources. Diamonds are especially favoured since they are highly valuable and easy to transport. As a result of the Angola conflict, the Security Council has begun to tackle this problem by imposing restrictions on trading in diamonds originating from certain conflict regions. However, implementing such sanctions is

¹⁰ In 1998 and 1999, Switzerland organised a number of international conferences in Interlaken to discuss improvements in the mechanism of targeted financial sanctions.

problematic since it is often impossible to ascertain the source of diamonds. At the initiative of South Africa, and in response to a motion submitted to the UN General Assembly, negotiations took place within the scope of the *Kimberley Process* between various countries that are heavily involved in diamond trading. In November 2002 a ministerial conference was held in Interlaken under the joint chairmanship of Switzerland and South Africa. Here, the most important diamond producing or trading countries agreed on the introduction of an international certification system. It came into effect on 1 January 2003 and stipulates that only raw diamonds bearing a forgery-proof certificate of origin may be imported or exported. The Security Council was informed about this move, and subsequently passed a resolution according to which it formally supports the provisions drawn up at the conference in Interlaken¹¹.

The 1st Committee of the General Assembly deals with issues relating to *non-proliferation, armament and disarmament control*. Its debates took on a new dimension as a result of the challenges to international security policy posed by the threat of terrorism. Switzerland used its first appearance as a member of the UN to outline its policy with respect to armament and disarmament control, and voted strictly in accordance with this stance. In the area of nuclear disarmament it called for a step-by-step procedure towards fully implementing the 13 practical measures decided at the international review conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, NPT, in 2000. Switzerland submitted two nuclear disarmament proposals calling for all countries to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, CTBT, and to initiate negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, FMCT. Furthermore, Switzerland joined in a declaration signed by around 50 foreign ministers which urges all countries that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT.

Switzerland also praised the conclusion of the Moscow Agreement on the reduction of the strategic arsenals of Russia and the USA, and welcomed Cuba's signature of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. There are now only three countries in the world that have not signed this treaty, namely India, Pakistan and Israel, and pressure is frequently exerted on them in the UN General Assembly to justify their refusal to sign.

It was with great concern that Switzerland noted the decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) in January 2003 to pull out of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. As a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Switzerland supported a resolution on 6 January regretting North Korea's unilateral move and asking it to work together with the IAEA to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The issue of *export controls*, by which mainly western industrialised countries want to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, is still hotly disputed. The majority of developing countries once again insisted on their demand for access to modern technologies and expressed their dissatisfaction with the existing export controls in a resolution that was passed against the wishes of western states, including Switzerland. However, a resolution calling for the exchange of information on the legal bases for export controls was passed unanimously. This move could pave the way for a more factual debate and at the same time increase the pressure on industrialised and threshold countries that still do not control exports, or do so only to a limited extent.

The UN is also endeavouring to bring more transparency into the area of *weapons trading*. A constantly growing number of countries now report annually to the UN Secretary-General on international trade in seven main categories of weapons (tanks, armoured vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, jet fighters and helicopters, war ships, missiles and missile firing systems), as well as on annual *military expenditure*. These data are then published in the UN weapons register or relevant report. Switzerland had already been regularly participating in this exchange of information, and recently supported a resolution that paves the way for the further development of the UN weapons register.

Switzerland gives high priority to extending the scope of application of the 1980 Convention on Certain *Conventional Weapons*, CCW. For example, at the UN General Assembly session it supported an initiative by the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, concerning unexploded munitions, drawing attention at the same time to its complementary proposal concerning submunitions (cluster munitions). The Swiss proposal, launched three years ago, calls for improvements in the reliability of submunitions through legally binding technical measures such as improvements in detonation systems, and the use of self-deactivating and self-destruct features. Switzerland also co-sponsored the UN resolution on the CCW.

As a member of the Human Security Network, Switzerland is endeavouring to bring related topics into UN debates. At the beginning of November 2002, on the fringe of the General Assembly session, the Network organised a workshop on the topic of *children in armed conflicts*. Diplomats, representatives of UN organisations, NGOs, experts and former child soldiers drew up joint recommendations on how to protect children in armed conflicts more effectively. Switzerland also supports the activities of Olara Otunnu, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who is working to sensitise the international community to this issue, and who published a report on this topic in December 2002.

Switzerland has been campaigning for the prohibition of *anti-personnel mines* for some time now, in particular for universal signature of the so-called Ottawa Treaty. It supported the relevant resolution by the UN General Assembly, and in the course of negotiations pointed out the risk associated with the use of anti-personnel mines by non-state actors. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining which is largely financed by Switzerland has become a central partner of the UN, mainly of the UN Mine Action Service, UNMAS, in the areas of operations and research. Swiss mine disposal experts are regularly deployed within the scope of UN programmes.

¹¹ S/Res/1459(2003) dated 28 January 2003.

Within the UN, Switzerland is strongly committed to combating illegal trade in *small arms and light weapons*. In 2002 it contributed SFr. 1 million to the UNDP Small Arms Trust Fund, thereby supporting various projects, including those within the scope of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe. Switzerland is also a member of the UN experts group which is examining the feasibility of a global tracing mechanism for small arms. During the UN General Assembly session, Switzerland participated in a resolution on small arms. At the same time, in the Security Council debate on small arms it stressed aspects relating to labelling and tracing weapons as well as the importance of small arms control in conflict prevention and development co-operation.

The DFA maintains strategic partnerships with selected *research institutes* in the area of peace policy. Switzerland participated in the establishment of the *Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research*, in close co-operation with the UN Secretariat. It is primarily the UN itself which benefits from the activities of this institute for human security, conflict prevention and protection of civilian populations. Other strategic partners of the DFA who provide various UN bodies with important input include the *International Crisis Group*, the *Small Arms Survey* in Geneva, the *International Peace Academy, IPA*, in New York, the *Institute for Security Studies* in Pretoria, and the *War-Torn Society Project International* in Geneva, plus the three Geneva-based centres in the areas of security policy and disarmament that are under the auspices of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports.

2.1.4 Development policy and combating poverty

In 2002, two important conferences were organised at which the international community aimed to make progress towards achieving the goals in the Millennium Declaration relating to development aid and the fight against poverty.

The first of these was the *International Conference on Financing for Development*, in Monterrey, Mexico in March, at which Switzerland played an active role. Here the agenda focused on the following topics: mobilisation of national resources, private investments, trade, coherence between financial, fiscal, monetary and trade policies, official development assistance, and debt relief for the poorest countries.

In the autumn, the 57th General Assembly discussed follow-up to this conference. Switzerland spoke strongly in favour of thorough and systematic co-operation among all involved institutions, in particular between the UN, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, as well as between these institutions and the private sector. It also undertook to promote dialogue and co-ordination between the World Economic Forum and the United Nations.

Another important event in 2002 was the *World Summit for Sustainable Development* in Johannesburg 26 August - 4 September. Switzerland sent a high-level delegation led by the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It focused on the following issues: sustainable development in mountain regions (priority), freshwater resources, international environmental issues, social development and poverty reduction, trade, and good governance at the global and national levels. Switzerland took advantage of its independence from large country groupings to play a significant role alongside the major players. For example, the hierarchical balance between trade, social and environmental norms was endorsed thanks to the committed efforts of the Swiss delegation. It was also to the credit of the Swiss delegation that sustainable development in mountain regions, and issues relating to the chemicals sector and the structure of the field of labour (including minimum social standards) were incorporated into the implementation plan. The Swiss delegation was also instrumental in the successful search for a satisfactory solution to the Foresight Principle. Finally, in the area of human rights the summit was able to prevent any fallback in the health sector.

These two conferences were instrumental in steering development co-operation in new directions. They provided strong impulses for future international co-operation, especially for an opening towards civil society and the private sector.

In the autumn, the 57th General Assembly dealt with the issue of *integrated and co-ordinated implementation of the results of the major conferences and related follow-up activities* (i.e. Monterrey and Johannesburg, but also all other major UN conferences over the past decade on related issues such as sustainable development, population, women, children, human rights, and social development). Switzerland played an active role in these negotiations and was instrumental in ensuring that each major conference became an element in the implementation of the *Millennium Declaration*, in particular its eight development objectives¹². In view of the importance and complexity of these issues, the General Assembly entrusted a special working group with the task of drawing up recommendations, which are to be examined over the next 12 months.

Strengthening the *operational development activities of the UN*, in particular the UN Development Programme, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Programme, UNICEF, and the UN Fund for Population Activities, UNFPA, has been a Swiss priority for many years. In 2002 it initiated debate on the necessity and means to better mobilise adequate political and financial support for the UN development system. The General Assembly also dealt with the question of the future of the UNDP Human Development Report, which Switzerland supports through financial contributions. In Switzerland's view, this report should continue to function as an instrument for reflection and discussion, and it intends to defend the intellectual and editorial autonomy of this publication.

¹² The eight objectives are as follows: reduction of extreme poverty; access to adequate basic education for everyone; reduction of infant mortality; improving health and welfare for mothers and children; the fight against HIV/AIDS and other widespread diseases; gender equality; sustainable use of natural resources; and the establishment of a global and comprehensive partnership for development.

In December 2001 in New York, the former Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi declared 2002 *International Year of Mountains*, a happy coincidence with Switzerland's UN membership. Switzerland, having actively campaigned for support for the sustainable development of mountain regions at the summit in Johannesburg, assumed a central mobilisation and co-ordination role at the 57th General Assembly session. Switzerland's commitment was based on a solid foundation thanks to the "Focus Group Montagne", and gained widespread international recognition. Approximately 20 industrialised, developing and threshold countries joined forces to form this group, overcoming the usual political divisions to pursue a common objective – preserving the riches of the world's mountain regions for future generations. As a result of this commitment, the General Assembly approved a resolution ensuring that political attention will be paid to this problem from now on. The text also guarantees recognition of the partnership for sustainable development in mountain regions. This partnership between Switzerland, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, and the UN Environment Programme was formed at the Johannesburg summit. Furthermore, it led to the inception of the International Day of Mountains on 11 December.

Switzerland also supported numerous activities outside the scope of the General Assembly during the International Year of Mountains, such as the organisation of the Global Mountain Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, at the end of October 2002. More than 600 delegates from 60 countries attended the summit, in a demonstration of the firm and lasting commitment on the part of a large number of organisations with the goal of halting the deterioration of mountain ecosystems and improving the living conditions of mountain populations.

The first international conference on sport and development was held in Magglingen 16-18 February 2003 at the initiative of former Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi¹³, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, and the Federal Office of Sports. The aim of this conference was to link sport, development and peace promotion more closely at the international level to support sustainable social development. UN representatives, a variety of experts, non-governmental organisations, athletes and representatives of international and national sports associations and the private sector worked together on formulating the *Magglingen Declaration on Sport and Development* and draw up a list of recommendations.

2.1.5 Human rights

A commitment to human rights is one of the main objectives of Switzerland's foreign policy. Its priority here is to combat the gravest human rights abuses, and primarily to protect the rights of people who have been deprived of their liberty. It thus focuses on torture, the death penalty, martial-law execution, forced removal, unfair trials, as well as infringements against freedom of conscience, religion, expression and assembly.

Switzerland is strongly committed to supporting especially vulnerable population groups such as minorities and indigenous peoples, women and children, and people who campaign on behalf of human rights. It is also active in other new areas and in those that are gaining in importance, such as the role played by the economy with respect to protection of human rights, and securing compliance with international humanitarian law and observation of human rights in the struggle against terrorism. Finally it focuses on reinforcing standards and international mechanisms aimed at protecting human rights.

Generally speaking, because it refuses to use the issue of human rights for political gain Switzerland receives widespread recognition for its constructive approach which is based on international law and the principle of good faith in multilateral negotiations. Its contribution towards a search for consensus without compromise is also widely acknowledged. Thanks to its accession to the UN it has participated actively in the negotiation of resolutions especially within its own priority areas.

One of the highlights of the 57th General Assembly in the area of human rights was the adoption of an *optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. This innovative document calls for the creation of a system of preventive inspections of locations in which people are imprisoned, with the aim of improving conditions and reducing the risk of mistreatment. The adoption of this protocol represented a significant achievement for Switzerland because, thanks to its status as a full member of the UN, it was able to bring the process that had been initiated 25 years ago by Jean-Jacques Gautier of Geneva to a successful conclusion. Switzerland received the close co-operation of Costa Rica on this issue, and this clearly demonstrates that partnerships within the UN between countries pursuing the same objectives can certainly be fruitful. The federal administration will be entrusting a special working group headed by the Federal Office of Justice with the task of preparing Switzerland's ratification of this protocol. Its duties will include working closely together with the cantons, whose competencies are involved here, to examine ways in which the provisions can be integrated into Swiss legislation, in particular with respect to the introduction of national mechanisms aimed at preventing torture.

In a general declaration on human rights, Switzerland underscored the importance of the topics it regards as priorities, e.g. *human rights and the private sector* and *human rights and the fight against terrorism*, and emphasised the importance of complying with standards and principles of the applicable provisions of international law. Switzerland supported the report by the Secretary-General on UN reforms, and stressed the importance of increased co-operation between the various committees responsible for monitoring agreements in the area of human rights. Once again it stated its opposition to proposals that could potentially weaken internationally recognised standards. It worked closely together with other countries implementing a similar human rights policy, e.g. the Scandinavian countries, Canada, New Zealand, Liechtenstein and member states of the EU. It especially rejected proposals aiming to suppress references in resolutions pointing to the significant role

¹³ In his capacity as Special Advisor to the UN for sport in the service of development and peace.

of the *International Criminal Court*, and closely monitored all negotiations concerning arbitrary executions without trial, the observation of human rights in the struggle against terrorism, children's rights¹⁴, the use of violence against women, combating racism and the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

Finally, Switzerland used meetings with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and special representatives and rapporteurs of the UN Secretary-General to underscore its support for the main deposition and advisory activities of these people and put forward questions on specific issues.

2.1.6 Humanitarian affairs

Switzerland has been focusing on humanitarian issues for many years, and thanks to its accession to the United Nations it is now able to present its views and policies fully to the General Assembly. During the debates on the *co-ordination of humanitarian action*, Switzerland underscored the importance of adopting a non-political, neutral and non-partisan approach to humanitarian aid. It also called on the UN emergency aid co-ordinator to extend the role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, IASC. This joint platform of humanitarian players, comprising UN organisations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and various NGOs, enables better harmonisation of measures by the participants in emergency situations.

The *UN global humanitarian appeal (Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal, CAP)* is an important instrument for the international co-ordination of humanitarian efforts. It uses donations to meet the basic necessities of individuals, nationally or regionally, who are in urgent need of aid. Local humanitarian organisations define a programme on the basis of a joint action plan; the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, then draws up the documents and distributes them simultaneously to a number of capital cities throughout the world.

To mark Switzerland's membership, the UN asked if it could organize a CAP launch for the first time in Berne. This took place on 19 November 2002 in Parliament in the presence of the UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette. Switzerland, which supported the organisation of this event, took the opportunity to call for the strengthening of the OCHA within the United Nations and for the enhancement of CAP as a planning and co-operation instrument.

Switzerland made a plea in various UN bodies for better *protection of civilian populations*. In December 2002, Switzerland addressed the Security Council – the body primarily responsible for this issue – appealing to parties in conflict to observe the principles of international humanitarian law. It also reminded both state and non-state combatants of their duties in this respect, such as the prohibition of violence against civilians and ensuring access for humanitarian organisations to victims of armed conflicts. Switzerland also called for better protection of humanitarian personnel as an essential pre-requisite for the provision of aid, and simultaneously demanded strict compliance with the rules of behaviour on the part of humanitarian personnel.

Another concern for Switzerland is the *protection of vulnerable groups*, above all refugees and internally-displaced people. It was co-author of the two UN resolutions on the activities of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, and the prolongation of its mandate for a further five years. It was actively involved in the formulation of the "Protection Agenda", which was approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee in autumn 2002¹⁵. At the same session, Ambassador Jean-Marc Boulgaris was elected Vice-Chairman of this supervisory board.

To underscore its repeatedly stated concern about the situation in the Middle East, Switzerland reiterated its support for the continuation of all activities (including emergency measures) of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, UNRWA.

2.1.7.1 Social and economic issues

Switzerland attached a great deal of value to the topics tabled at the UN General Assembly session aimed at increasing the level of prosperity throughout the world by promoting social coherence and open markets. It is committed at both the national and international levels to a coherent and lasting integration of social and economic policy to bring about flexible solutions based on a sound and recognised social partnership.

Switzerland showed particular interest in debates devoted to the *role of the private sector in development*. It spoke out in favour of the principle of social responsibility on the part of companies at both the national and international levels. In this connection it should be noted that Switzerland is especially active in favour of the *Global Compact*, an initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in 1999 on the occasion of the World Economic Forum in Davos. The Compact sets out to sensitise companies to the issues of social rights, human rights and environment protection. To date, more than 700 companies, eight of them in Switzerland, are part of the Compact, committing themselves to observing nine general principles, including human rights, freedom of association, the abolition of child labour and environment protection.

Switzerland is convinced that a dialogue of this nature between the UN and the private sector is a positive step and therefore financially supports the Global Compact office in New York, and heads the informal donors group there.

¹⁴ Taking account of the conclusions of the May 2002 special session of the General Assembly, which was devoted to issues relating to children.

¹⁵ This action plan resulted from global consultations held on the 50th anniversary of the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees. The agenda calls for measures to enhance the protection of refugees and sets out to improve co-ordination of international efforts in the event of a major flow of refugees.

Together with UNCTAD, it held an information day on 29 October 2002 in Geneva about the Global Compact and the role of the corporate sector. Among the 400 participants at this important event were representatives of companies, trade unions and non-governmental organisations. The event had the support of a number of major Swiss corporations that feel that a partnership of this type has the potential to generate sustainable development.

In the area of information and communications technology, Switzerland participated in the preliminary discussions on the *World Summit on the Information Society*, WSIS. The first part will be held 10-12 December 2003 in Geneva; the second part is scheduled for 2005 in Tunis. Following consultation with Tunisia, Switzerland submitted a resolution calling for the preparatory procedure for this summit to be intensified. The resolution points to the importance of an integrative approach with respect to the topics to be dealt with as well as to the co-ordinated participation of all organisations. Switzerland also spoke in favour of the use of new technologies to promote development. In the area of Internet (cyber) security, it advocated a balanced approach that takes account of the right to a free information flow as well as the protection of the private sphere.

Switzerland was actively involved in negotiations on the implementation of the resolutions following the *World Summit for Social Development* in Geneva in 2000. Here the focus was on issues relating to youth employment, families, senior citizens and the disabled.

Finally, members quickly approved a resolution co-sponsored by Switzerland calling for international co-operation in the battle against the global drug problem. Switzerland has been working on new and innovative solutions to the drug problem for many years now, and is endeavouring to gain widespread international acceptance of its “four-pillar policy”, which is based on prevention, therapy and social reintegration, harm reduction, and repression. Switzerland has ratified the various UN conventions on drugs and is now implementing them. The only convention it has yet to ratify is the one passed in 1988 on trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances. Here it is waiting for the conclusion of debate on the revision of the Narcotics Act even though it is already meeting general international obligations contained in the agreement such as control of source substances and the fight against money laundering.

2.1.7.2 Environment

Switzerland has been actively participating in major debates and negotiations on international environmental policy for many years. One of its goals is to make an important contribution to resolving environment issues within the UN context and, through concrete suggestions and proposals, to support international mechanisms for protecting the environment and the natural basis for existence.

Switzerland commented on environmental issues on a number of occasions during its first General Assembly session as a full member of the UN, focusing primarily on *implementing the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* and *supporting the global environmental system*. Here its objectives included finding ways to enhance the effectiveness of the UN Environment Programme, UNEP, which is one of the main pillars of the global environmental system, as well as to ensure that the resolutions of the Global Environment Ministers Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development are implemented effectively.

Other priority areas included *protection of flora and fauna (biodiversity)* and combating the negative impact of climate change. In the area of biodiversity, Switzerland underscored the importance of the world's flora and fauna as the basis for sustainable development, as well as the necessity of developing a comprehensive strategy for protecting biodiversity. Furthermore, it campaigned for the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Effectively combating the negative impact of *climate change*, calls for co-ordinated efforts on the part of the international community. For this reason, Switzerland appealed to all nations, and to the USA in particular, to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and implement it in an effective manner. It pointed out on a number of occasions that social and economic development always has to be sustainable, and that *natural disasters* are partly attributable to the destruction of the environment and eco-systems. In view of this, it is essential to focus more strongly on preventive measures in addition to providing emergency aid.

Switzerland therefore campaigned for rapid implementation of the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction* and assumed the role of mediator. The aim of this strategy is to provide countries with funds to enable them to counter natural disasters and other such occurrences related to civilisation and the environment, and thus minimise human, economic and social losses. Switzerland also assumed the presidency of an informal group of countries aiming to integrate preventive measures into development programmes. On top of this it was actively involved in the formulation of a resolution, which it also co-sponsored, concerning search and rescue operations on behalf of victims of earthquakes.

At the General Assembly, Switzerland expressed its view that there should not be a hierarchical arrangement of *environmental regulations and provisions governing international trade*, stating that these should be on an equal footing and complement one another.

In summing up, it may be stated that Switzerland was successful in putting forward its concerns in the area of environmental protection. Its own views are often very similar to those of Norway and EU members, but frequently differ from those of the USA and certain developing countries which do not rate environmental protection and the global ecological system very highly. In view of the importance of the texts that are formulated within the scope of the UN General Assembly and which often serve as the basis for negotiations in specific

environmental processes, it is therefore important that Switzerland continues to maintain a proactive stance in this area alongside like-minded countries.

2.1.9.1 International law

The continuing development and codification of international law are among the priority activities of the United Nations. The more strictly countries comply with international law, the more predictable and stable international relations will become. Switzerland's long-standing interest in international law is to a considerable degree attributable to the peace promotion aspect of international law.

Between 3 and 10 September 2002, on the fringes of the UN General Assembly, the Assembly of States Parties to the *International Criminal Court* met for the first time since the Rome Statute came into effect on 1 July 2002. At this event, all the foundations were laid to effectively commence activity during the next few months. At the closing ceremony of this assembly on 10 September 2002, the same day Switzerland was formally welcomed into the UN, the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs renewed a call for as many countries as possible to join the ICC, and expressed his opposition to any exception clauses. Switzerland was ultimately successful in negotiations on the budget and procedures for the election of judges and the prosecutor. The ICC subsequently became a topic for debate in the UN General Assembly itself, which passed a number of resolutions – some of which were hotly disputed – in which reference was made to the importance of the new court. The main resolution concerning this court was approved by consensus, though the USA abstained. Although the International Criminal Court was established as an independent body under international law when the Rome Statute came into effect it remains closely tied to the United Nations. For example, the UN Secretariat still continues to function as the secretariat for the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court.

Another issue on which Switzerland focused attention at the General Assembly session was human cloning. A proposal put forward by Germany and France in 2001 calling for negotiations on a *convention against reproductive cloning of human beings* met with scepticism on the part of those countries that want a ban on all forms of human cloning. Distinguishing between “reproductive” and “therapeutic” cloning was also a hotly disputed question. For pragmatic reasons, Switzerland preferred a step-by-step procedure: an immediate total ban on “reproductive” cloning – here the chances of reaching consensus are fairly good – followed by a separate debate on the more complex issue of “therapeutic” cloning. Thanks to the intervention of the Office of the General Assembly Legal Committee, a procedural compromise was reached between the two almost evenly matched sides in which the Swiss vice-chairman of the above committee played a significant role. This prevented an open dispute, which would have been detrimental to the search for a solution to an issue that is decisive for the future of mankind.

In its resolution on combating *terrorism*, the General Assembly condemned acts of terrorism in any form and called on the international community to take measures to combat them, while observing human rights and international law. It also extended the mandate of a committee that is drawing up proposals for a global convention on terrorism and a separate convention on nuclear terrorism. Only a handful of issues remain to be finalised: the precise definition of terrorism, the relationship between the new conventions and the 12 existing sector agreements on terrorism, and the extent to which they should apply to armed forces. Switzerland is working to find a solution that encompasses all these issues, complies with international humanitarian law and puts the primary consideration on protection of the victims.

In January 2002, negotiations began in Vienna on a universal convention on combating *corruption*. This means that, under the banner of the United Nations, the international community is setting out for the first time to formulate binding provisions that regulate competencies for all the legal and socio-economic problems that go hand in hand with corruption. Switzerland actively participated in negotiations on a draft proposal that deals with sensitive issues such as declaring corruption a criminal offence, the development of preventive measures, the return of unlawfully acquired assets and goods to the country of origin, and passive bribery.

In its resolution on an *international legal instrument governing the immunity of states*, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that agreement is now close in the negotiations that began in 1999, and it formally requested the working group concerned to conclude them by the next General Assembly. It is essential from the point of view of international relations that sovereign acts by one state remain outside the jurisdiction of another state. In practice, numerous provisions – some of which are of a common law nature – have developed, and these now need to be consolidated. Switzerland has a particular interest in the development of such an instrument, because it would regulate precisely the immunity provisions of the numerous representations of foreign states domiciled in Switzerland – primarily in Geneva.

In the area of *international humanitarian law*, which Switzerland regards as especially important, the resolution on the *status of the two supplementary protocols to the Geneva Conventions* led to a consolidation of the progress that has been made over the past few years. The number of contributors to this process doubled last year to reach 80, thus giving the resolution a significantly broader political basis. While the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 are recognised by practically every country in the world, the same cannot be said of the two supplementary protocols of 1977. Switzerland is, as everyone knows, the depository of these instruments. In its resolution, the General Assembly appealed to all countries to ratify the two supplementary protocols and recognise the authority of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, whose secretariat is run by Switzerland. At the request of the countries concerned, this commission investigates whether the available facts represent a grave infringement of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions or its first supplementary protocol and can offer its good offices to parties in conflict.

In this connection, Switzerland and the *Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research* organised a conference of experts in January 2003 with the goal of promoting and extending the scope of international humanitarian law. This conference was attended by representatives from 23 countries (including Switzerland), as well as independent scientific experts and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations.

Switzerland also closely followed the debate on *security of UN and associated personnel*. The General Assembly passed a resolution on longer-term measures to enhance legal protection for UN personnel. In a 2001 report the Secretary-General outlined the difficulties that may arise with respect to the application of the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and went on to propose short- and longer-term measures to enhance their legal protection. A working group set up following the release of this report approved a series of short-term measures early last year. In its resolution, the General Assembly has now drawn up guidelines for the working group to formulate longer-term measures. Switzerland was in favour of drawing up a supplementary protocol to fill existing gaps, and this option appears to have met with widespread support.

The General Assembly also debated the comprehensive report of the *International Law Commission* that convened in Geneva. The report deals with a variety of issues relating to international law, such as diplomatic protection, provisos, unilateral acts, liability for damages arising from behaviour that is not prohibited under international law, responsibility of international organisations, common natural resources and fragmentation of international law. In addition to remarks on matters of substance, Switzerland stressed that the outcome of the commission's activities also has to correspond to the future requirements of states. Only in this way can the commission continue to play its important role fully in the area of codification and development of international law.

Other topics dealt with by the General Assembly Legal Committee included the activities of the UN Commission on International Trade Law, UNCITRAL, protection of diplomatic and consular personnel, missions and agencies, and the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

For the sake of completeness we should also mention here that on 26 June 2002 Switzerland ratified the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the involvement of children in armed conflicts, and signed the additional protocols to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, one of which is aimed at preventing, suppressing and punishing human trafficking (especially women and children), while the other is intended to combat smuggling of people by land, sea and air.

2.1.10 UN finances and personnel

In the area of finance, Switzerland was particularly interested in the *specification of its own contributions* for the general budget and the budget for peacekeeping missions. For the general budget, the amount is primarily based on each member's ability to pay or a percentage of its gross national product. As expected, the figure was set at 1.274%. Switzerland is therefore 14th on the list of contributors to the general budget, ahead of Russia and after China. With respect to its contribution to peacekeeping missions, Switzerland was allocated to category B, which applies to all industrialised nations that are not permanent members of the Security Council (which pay higher rates). Here the rate is the same as for the general budget, namely 1.274%. Swiss contributions for 2002, which were calculated on a pro rata basis, were approximately 8% lower than originally anticipated, though this figure would be as high as 20% if we take the real exchange rates into account.

The *financial situation of the UN* has improved significantly since autumn 2001. Its liquidity and respectively the readiness on the part of its member states to pay their contributions have increased. There are also signs of a change in the composition of its various budgets: the general budget, which has undergone zero growth over the past decade in line with the wishes of its member states, is now on an upward trend, especially in view of the need for occasional, additional expenditure in the area of security as a direct consequence of the events of 11 September 2001. Nonetheless, over the medium term we can anticipate Switzerland's contribution to remain more or less constant thanks to the favourable trend of the US dollar exchange rate. The budgets for the international tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are comparatively modest and may be expected to decline steadily in view of the foreseeable conclusion of their activities during the next few years. The budget for peacekeeping missions – which is subject to significant fluctuations depending on the number and intensity of missions – is now showing signs of easing from the high level it reached in the mid-1990s. No major new missions are in preparation at this time.

Switzerland's accession to the UN and subsequent payment of its dues were of immediate significance for one of the most controversial issues dealt with by the 5th Committee at this year's session, namely the *reduction of Argentina's contribution*. This country stated that it was unable to pay its contribution due to the ongoing economic crisis, and submitted an application for an immediate reduction, and thus the granting of an exception. Normally the contributions paid by member states are reviewed every three years on the basis of current economic data, and this means that Argentina would have had to wait until the next General Assembly for approval of such an application. In the end the General Assembly passed a resolution that granted Argentina a reduction from 1.149% to 0.969%. The resolution took account of Switzerland's concern that the integrity of the current method for calculating contributions should be maintained and that it was important to avoid establishing a precedent for similar cases in the future.

The 5th Committee of the UN General Assembly focuses on personnel issues in even years (such as 2002) in which no budgets have to be approved, and one of the more delicate issues it has to deal with here concerns *wage policy within the UN*. In principle, the UN needs to be able to offer attractive employment conditions. This is supported by members. Generally speaking, salaries are well below those in Switzerland and other industrialised nations. The

methodology adopted by the General Assembly is extremely complex in that it is based on the criterion that UN salaries should be between 10% and 20% above those of US federal officials in Washington, with 115% as the targeted average. However, the level in 2002 was only 109.3%. This means that salaries should have been adapted by an average of around 5.7%. But as the general budget was already under a great deal of pressure, agreement was reached on a proposal to adjust them by an average of 2.2%. Switzerland was of the opinion that it was especially important that the established methodology employed by the General Assembly should not be placed in question. With the net margin currently at 112%, the next adjustment is likely to be made in two years' time.

As mentioned above, there were no budget resolutions as such at the 57th General Assembly, but the *initial implementation report on the current two-year budget period* was approved during this session. In this report the Secretary-General, presents an overview of currency and inflation adjustments, as well as unforeseeable expenditures or new mandates. The General Assembly approved an increase of USD 177 million for the current budget period, approximately half of which was intended to cover statutory adjustments such as the above-mentioned currency and inflation costs, while the remainder was earmarked for additional security measures and for political missions on behalf of the Security Council (e.g. in Afghanistan).

In addition to normal business, the General Assembly approved a variety of measures aimed at simplifying, streamlining and consolidating the planning and budgeting process within the scope of debate on the reform package proposed by the Secretary-General (cf. 2.1.11).

2.1.11 UN reforms

The role of the United Nations in dealing with international issues has grown substantially since the beginning of the 1990s, and this has led to a significant expansion of its overall workload. To meet the new challenges more effectively, the UN initiated a comprehensive reform programme that has gained momentum thanks to impulses from Secretary-General Kofi Annan since 1997.

As outlined in the "Millennium Declaration" approved by heads of state and government leaders in 2000, the objective of the reform of the UN is to strengthen its organisation, increase its presence, enhance its efficiency, and enable it to respond more resolutely to the needs and wishes of member states. The package is also intended to ensure that the UN's objectives and commitments are more realistic.

With respect to the competencies of the UN Secretary-General, the initiation of a first reform package in 1998 has resulted in numerous changes and the introduction of measures aimed at increasing the level of efficiency. Switzerland praised the considerable progress achieved to date. The UN now operates on the basis of clearer priorities and is able to achieve much more than it could a few years ago with the same financial resources and fewer personnel. It has also adopted a more open stance towards non-governmental organisations and the private sector. Examples here include the "Geneva Business Dialogue" (1998) and the "Global Compact" initiated by Kofi Annan in Davos in January 1999.

At the 57th General Assembly session, the UN Secretary-General proposed a new reform package – the "*Agenda for further change*" – which is based on his first initiative. The objective of this agenda is to place the UN in a better position to meet the new expectations and challenges with which it is confronted. Although the UN is more efficient and capable of taking action than it was before, it nonetheless requires further reforms, and for this reason the Secretary-General's agenda contains a variety of more extensive and more pragmatic improvements that cover the entire spectrum of activities of the UN, both at its headquarters as well as in its country offices.

General Assembly: A thorough weed-out is to be made of its programme of activities to ensure that it orients itself to a greater extent on the priorities and objectives defined in the Millennium Declaration and at various global conferences, and does not spend any more time and money on activities that are no longer of relevance. A further reduction is to be made in the number of meetings and reports to eliminate overlaps and duplication. The existing budgeting and planning process is unnecessarily complex and labour-intensive. It involves three different committees, an immense volume of documents and hundreds of meetings. By streamlining this process it will be possible to work with shorter, more strategic and more result-oriented budget documents, simplify interstate review procedures and increase the degree of flexibility for the Secretary-General to transfer resources during a given budget period. The budgeting procedure for peacekeeping missions also needs to be simplified, streamlined and consolidated. Switzerland supports all these measures, though not all of them were included in the final text of the approved resolution.

Secretariat: Proposals in the area of relations with the public include streamlining the network of UN information centres (to be replaced by regional offices) and increasing the efficiency of archive management. Switzerland actively supports these measures, but is anxious to ensure that the capacities of the UN European headquarters in Geneva are not encroached upon by the proposed restructuring process. In this respect, as well as in other areas described in this report, Switzerland was able to directly benefit from its status as a full member of the United Nations. The comments of a member state carry significantly more weight than those of an observer, and Switzerland received assurance from the Secretary-General with respect to the position and role of Geneva.

Civil society: Co-operation with civil society is an area to which Switzerland attaches high priority. Because the UN has gradually strengthened its relations with civil society over the past decade, it resolved to set up an independent expert committee for the purpose of closely examining these relations. The UN has also greatly strengthened its relations with the private sector in recent years, chiefly through the Global Compact initiative and a number of partnerships with companies and foundations. It now wants to bring these activities under one roof by establishing an Office for Partnerships.

In view of the growing importance of the United Nations with respect to establishing consensus on major social and economic issues with global impact, it is necessary to strengthen the institution that is primarily responsible for these issues, namely the *Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC*, and Switzerland supports the reorganisation efforts of this body. This move, together with a possible rapprochement to the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank and International Monetary Fund), should pave the way for interesting synergies between political and economic circles, particularly in the area of development co-operation.

In the areas of peace and security, the *Security Council* is willing to pursue the path of reform, even if only in small steps. In view of the call on the part of a significant number of countries for greater transparency and more opportunities for the involvement of non-member states, it is abiding by its current practice of convening public meetings for debates on matters of special importance such as the Iraq crisis, the situation in the Middle East and the security of personnel. A variety of information events concerning the development of internal consultation mechanisms were organised by the President of the Security Council during the General Assembly, and regular meetings were held between countries supplying troops. Since September 2002¹⁶, a veto right has been exercised on only one occasion.

The UN pursued its efforts to implement the reform of *peacekeeping operations* in those areas in which it receives the support of its member states. These were initiated in 2000 following the release of the “Brahimi Report”¹⁷, the official title of which is “Rapport du Panel sur les opérations de maintien de paix de l’ONU” (“Report of the Panel on UN Peacekeeping Operations”). This report identified the UN’s weak points in the area of peacekeeping activities and went on to propose measures to rectify them. To date, the most significant progress has been achieved with respect to increasing capacities for taking rapid action. The goal here is to provide the UN with the means to set up basic missions within 30 days and more complex ones within 90 days. To ensure a ready supply of officers, on-call lists of personnel were drawn up within the scope of the *UN Standby Arrangement System*, UNSAS, and these are soon to be extended to civilian police officers.

2.2 Perspectives for 2003 and beyond

2.2.1.1 UN development perspectives

The various problems the international community has to deal with – poverty, security, the sustainable preservation of natural resources, migration – are taking on an ever increasing global dimension, and the UN will therefore remain an essential player. However, its efficiency largely depends on the political will of its members to retain and broaden its various methods of operation, and to adapt them constantly to changing demands. For this reason, the collective abilities of its member states and the UN Secretariat to secure a smoothly functioning organisation across the board will be a crucial factor in the development of the United Nations.

In today’s global system, characterised by the existence of a single super-power and the rise of non-state actors, the United Nations is the sole forum in which the differing interests of all international players can be brought together and shaped with the common objective of developing policies for the benefit of everyone. This represents a major challenge, but over the past decade the UN has shown its readiness to face it. The UN also needs to demonstrate that it is able to incorporate the new and increasingly influential players in the field of international relations (large corporations and active social forces) into its various functions – as a global forum for developing policies and strategies, as a negotiating centre and as an operational organisation that utilises shared resources. It is essential to involve these players in the efforts of governments to progress in formulating and realising common objectives.

The UN needs to prove that it is able to deal with these challenges if it is to continue to function as a forum for debate and negotiation for all those players who – like Switzerland – want to promote, in a globalised world, democracy, freedom, human rights, protection of the environment, economic and financial stability, and social justice.

2.2.2 Switzerland and the UN: looking ahead

Switzerland’s membership of the United Nations helps it realise the objectives in the Federal Constitution as well as the core goals of its foreign policy. The fact that these are closely in line with the objectives of the UN Charter means that Switzerland should be able to make a useful contribution towards enhancing the capacities of the international community to take action.

In fact Switzerland has a considerable number of strengths, as a member of the United Nations, to develop its position as a major force in the area of multilateral co-operation. A variety of factors make Switzerland a credible, dependable and respected partner.

- Switzerland’s policies are firmly based on international and Swiss law, especially with respect to neutrality.

¹⁶ By the USA on 20 December 2002 in connection with a debate on the situation in the Middle East.

¹⁷ This report was prepared by an independent group of experts set up by the UN Secretary-General. Its members included the former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga. The report outlines the status quo and makes a number of specific recommendations aimed at enabling the organisation to successfully implement its activities in the areas of peacekeeping and security. It deals particularly with the structure of the peacekeeping operations section, the award of mandates by the Security Council, dialogue with countries supplying troops and the UN’s capacities for taking rapid action.

- Its humanitarian tradition and role as depository for the Geneva Conventions place Switzerland on a special footing in the area of international humanitarian law and give extra credibility to its efforts to gain better recognition of the Conventions.
- Thanks to its affluence, its importance as a financial centre and its position on global markets, Switzerland is able to make a useful contribution to important ongoing debate on major current topics such as globalisation, the social responsibility of the private sector, the struggle against international crime and the development of the information society (to cite just a few examples). Furthermore, its cooperation in the implementation of measures in these areas has considerable weight.
- Switzerland pursues clearly-defined and consistent policies in the area of environment protection.
- Switzerland supports efforts aimed at the promotion and preservation of cultural diversity.
- Its relatively large contribution to the UN budget as a country with a high standard of living makes Switzerland a significant player in the UN's multilateral co-operation activities, as well as a privileged discussion partner of the UN Secretariat.
- Switzerland's status as host country for the UN's European headquarters and numerous other specialised agencies strengthens its position within the UN.
- Switzerland uses its status as a member of the United Nations to put forward proposals and promote international law.

Thanks to these strengths, Switzerland will be able to consolidate its status as a member of the United Nations over the next few years, as well as refine the instruments it uses in having its positions recognised and its initiatives successfully implemented.

The priorities defined by the 57th General Assembly will remain current over the longer term. They will be examined ahead of each General Assembly – along with all new priorities which could arise in the meantime – to assess the development of their validity for Switzerland and the international community. The main priority areas are as follows:

- To promote peace and stability throughout the world through preventive measures, active support for international dialogue and through measures aimed at consolidating peace and bringing about lasting reconciliation in post-conflict societies.
- To promote human rights and human security, particularly by legislating against anti-personnel mines and illegal trade in small arms, and by protecting civilians (especially women and children) in armed conflicts.
- To increase the degree of coherence in international co-operation in favour of sustainable development while improving the balance in North-South relations and combating poverty more effectively.
- To continue to pursue an active environmental policy that focuses on sustainability.
- To combat HIV/AIDS and lessen its social and economic consequences.
- To search for a global approach that incorporates all dimensions of migration processes.
- To contribute towards the development and effective enforcement of international law, focusing on the functional capacity of the International Criminal Court and the adoption and implementation of the optional protocol on the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- To promote Switzerland's services as a host country, especially in the interests of Geneva International and its surroundings.
- To pursue and intensify reforms that increase the efficiency of the UN and eliminate its weaknesses.

At the political level, the overall objective is to enhance the co-ordination of efforts to safeguard bilateral and multilateral interests. Good co-ordination is especially important if countries aiming to push ahead with priority initiatives want to form efficient coalitions. Regular bilateral dialogue on the UN's policies will help strengthen Switzerland's influence within the organisation and demonstrate the extent to which Switzerland respects the stances adopted by its partners. Such steps are essential for ensuring the success of special projects such as the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003.

In Switzerland itself, the Federal Council is of the opinion that pursuing dialogue with Parliament and civil society on the role to be played by Switzerland within the United Nations will lead to positive results, e.g. enhancing the credibility of Switzerland's positions – and thus its importance – within the United Nations; firmly anchoring its foreign policy at the domestic policy level; support for the policy adopted by the UN of opening up to, and forming partnerships with, civil society and the economy.

2.2.3 Peace, security and disarmament

Switzerland wants to expand its co-operation with the UN in the areas of peace, security and disarmament. To begin with this will call for an intensification of dialogue and co-operation with the Security Council and the relevant offices at the UN Secretariat.

Switzerland aims to gradually increase its contributions to peacekeeping missions, especially in connection with civil components. For this purpose it will continue to contribute to selected funds, and identify and utilise synergies between UN peacekeeping operations and instruments of Switzerland's peace policy. It has resources at

its disposal in the form of pools of civilian and military personnel, together with qualified experts from the Spiez Laboratory and the Defence Procurement Agency of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports, that enable it to continue making practical contributions towards peacekeeping and disarmament. These include logistical and financial support for international activities under the auspices of the UN aimed at preventing conflicts, overcoming crises and assisting with post-conflict reconstruction. Some of the more feasible options include:

- Maintaining, and as far as possible increasing, Switzerland's support in the form of personnel, materials and funding for the implementation of practical disarmament efforts, e.g. in the areas of chemical weapons, small arms and humanitarian mine clearing.
- Ongoing support for, and involvement in, UN verifications activities, e.g. weapons inspections in Iraq within the scope of UNMOVIC.
- Increased involvement in civilian aspects of peacekeeping operations, especially through longer-term deployment of civilian experts. With respect to the military side of peacekeeping operations, there should be a stronger medium-term focus on providing experts, military observers and units based on the Swisscoy model.

For these activities it will of course be necessary to take account of the financial situation and political priorities, as well as restrictions that may be placed on the deployment of personnel by Switzerland's militia system. It is also necessary to take into consideration the fact that possibilities for civilian deployment are also limited because the UN does not accept contingents working under the national flag (with the exception of civilian police officers).

Switzerland also aims to pursue its commitment in the area of *targeted sanctions*, which not only have to have greater effect on the person(s) concerned, but also need to be in line with Switzerland's humanitarian objectives in that they do not harm civilians and other nations. Switzerland is one of only a handful of countries that favour reform in the area of sanctions and have jointly formulated recommendations, which now need to be intensified and promoted on a broad scale. A Swiss co-financed seminar for members of the Security Council and the relevant officials at the UN Secretariat is a first step in this direction. The seminar scheduled, for the first half of 2003 near New York, aims to inform and sensitise players who are directly involved in drawing up regulations governing sanctions.

Switzerland wants to help improve the sanctions mechanism by continuing to support the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, in its efforts to develop a tool for evaluating the humanitarian impact of sanctions. This tool would in turn enable greater consideration of this impact when developing or adapting a sanctions programme. Switzerland is also closely monitoring the implementation of the diamond certification system that was introduced within the scope of the Kimberley Process and which was developed with Switzerland's involvement. With this system it is possible to assess the effectiveness of embargoes on diamonds from specific conflict regions.

Switzerland focuses strongly on issues that concern human security – landmines, small arms, children in armed conflicts, protection of civilians, role of non-state actors in armed conflicts. In the area of prevention and peaceful resolution of armed conflicts it attaches special importance to the role and perspectives of women. Switzerland also intends to participate in debates on related subjects held regularly by the Security Council to encourage reflection on the issue of peace promotion.

In the *area of disarmament*, Switzerland aims to encourage states which have not done so to sign a variety of treaties, e.g. concerning the ban on nuclear tests, the convention on chemical weapons and the treaty on anti-personnel mines. It also intends to push for further progress in the area of disarmament policy, focusing on the initiation of fresh negotiations within the scope of the Geneva Disarmament Conference. It will also be able to add weight to its own arguments by working more closely together with like-minded countries. At the institutional level, Switzerland wants to propose measures to ensure that the 1st Committee of the General Assembly is able to increase its level of efficiency and focus more strongly on ongoing issues without competing with the Security Council. One such measure, for example, would be to update recurring resolutions only every two years and no longer table outdated resolutions at all.

2.2.4 Development policy and combating poverty

The priorities Switzerland is pursuing within the UN General Assembly in the area of development policy and combating poverty are the same as the eight objectives of the *Millennium Declaration*¹⁸. These are increasingly recognised as the universal standard against which the effectiveness of international development co-operation is measured, and Switzerland fully supports this tendency. The Millennium Declaration goals focus on the one hand on international development efforts for the poorest countries of the world, and on the other hand on all the most important areas for achieving the sustainable development of humanity and its habitat.

However, before global political acceptance of the Millennium development goals is ensured there are still a number of technical obstacles to be overcome, especially with respect to the ways in which progress and the attainment of the various objectives are to be monitored at the national level. Switzerland will be actively involved in these tasks in the future, as well as with efforts to gain acceptance of the Millennium Declaration, both within the UN General Assembly and in other committees such as the Executive Board of the UNDP.

¹⁸ The eight objectives are listed in section 2.1.4.

In concrete terms, Switzerland wants to ensure as far as possible that commitments entered into at major conferences are subsequently met in full. To this end it will actively participate in the deliberations of the working group set up during the 57th General Assembly concerning the integration of follow-up processes and the implementation of commitments entered into at major conferences.

In this connection, the follow-up activities after the *International Conference on Financing for Development* in Monterrey are to be listed as priorities. Switzerland will be actively seeking constructive dialogue encompassing all institutions involved in development financing. The Monterrey conference was the stepping stone. This has to be followed up by a comprehensive international process aimed at converging development aid, finance, tax, monetary and trade policies. Here Switzerland intends to pursue its commitment in six main areas of development financing – mobilisation of national resources, direct foreign investments, trade, official development assistance and global social goods, debt and debt relief, and systemic problems. It also aims to participate in specific initiatives to implement follow-up measures from the Monterrey conference, and the Federal Council is abiding by its intention to increase Switzerland's official development assistance, ODA; to 0.4% of GNP by 2010.

Another theme that will become more topical in 2004 is the 10th anniversary of the *International Conference on Population and Development* in Cairo. It will be an occasion to review the implementation of the associated action programme. Switzerland has contributed SFr. 500,000 to the UNFPA for this purpose, and will work with like-minded countries to ensure that due attention is paid to the Cairo action programme and its principles.

If the UN development system is to help reach international development objectives, greater pressure will have to be applied to increase the effectiveness of its *operational activities* and it will have to receive the necessary political and financial support. To this end, Switzerland aims to support the resolutions resulting from the debates on operational activities that were held in 2002, both in the executive boards of the UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF, as well as in ECOSOC and the General Assembly. It will also diligently pursue and support the implementation of the new reform proposals put forward by the UN Secretary-General in the area of development, for example concerning the form of the UN's presence at the national level.

2.2.5 Human rights

Switzerland will remain committed to human rights on the basis of the position it held during the 57th session of the General Assembly. It will also continue campaigning for the integration of human rights into all matters dealt with by the General Assembly and into UN operational activities, in particular peace negotiations. In this respect, Switzerland will be able to use the many years of concrete experience it has gained through its promotion of human rights to make a useful contribution to the UN's efforts. In return it will gain inspiration from debates within the UN for defining new activities. In view of this, the Federal Council sent a message to Parliament concerning a framework credit for measures aimed at civilian conflict transformation and the promotion of human rights. The goal here is to provide Switzerland with a legal basis and new resources to

- extend its political commitment through financial support for the application of international standards.
- initiate and/or support diplomatic initiatives – if necessary, in co-operation with other countries – that pursue a similar human rights policy.
- support non-governmental organisations and experts in forums in which they are able to participate in negotiations.
- enter into commitments with scientific institutions with the aim of strengthening Switzerland's position.

Switzerland will pursue its objective of becoming a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights, UNCHR, while simultaneously working actively in its observer role to enable negotiations to reach decisions and introduce resolutions corresponding to its own priorities. It also intends to express its concern over the growing polarisation of positions that has long burdened the activities of the UNCHR. Switzerland has always urged dialogue instead of confrontation and will campaign for a climate of co-operation and openness within this institution. It will maintain this stance during the 2004 and 2005 sessions.

Finally, Switzerland aims to continue to support politically and financially the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in activities that match its own priorities.

2.2.6.1 Humanitarian affairs

The priorities outlined during the 57th session of the General Assembly are to be maintained over the next few years and pursued within various UN institutions.

Switzerland will pay special attention to the *co-ordination of humanitarian affairs*, focusing on strengthening synergies and eliminating duplications by the various players involved. It would like better integration of development work into the humanitarian dimension along with greater respect for humanitarian principles.

One of Switzerland's priorities in this area is *protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts and of vulnerable groups such as refugees*. It will work to ensure that international humanitarian law and the rights of refugees are strengthened and respected by all parties involved in armed conflicts – i.e. both government and non-

government players. In particular, it is anxious to further the implementation of the “Protection Agenda”¹⁹ of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR. It also aims to focus on issues relating to the *efficient operation and good governance of the UNHCR*. In 2003, Switzerland became Vice-President of the UNHCR Executive Committee and will take over as President in 2004.

As before, *protection of humanitarian personnel* is an important issue. Here it is essential to increase the level of understanding for the problems associated with respecting humanitarian personnel, e.g. rules of behaviour, relations between civilians and armed forces in complex emergencies (cf. 2.2.9, aspects relating to the signature of the Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel by Switzerland).

Finally, Switzerland will be closely following the activities of the *Security Council* relating to humanitarian affairs. Over the past few years, the UN has attached increasing importance to the mutual dependency that exists between collective security and the protection of individuals. Switzerland welcomes this development and intends to promote it. It aims to use Security Council discussions on this topic – e.g. on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts – to put forward its own views and remind member states of their obligations under international humanitarian law.

2.2.6.2 Social and economic issues

During the next few years, considerable importance will be attached to the issue of the private sector and development. Here, special attention will be paid to the “*Global Compact*” and the activities of the International Labour Organisation, ILO and the OECD with respect to the social responsibility of companies. In this connection, Switzerland will be active mainly in ECOSOC and the Commission on Social Development, whose priorities for the next few years are in line with those of Switzerland’s: national and international co-operation in the area of social development (2003) and verification of the future implementation of the results of the UN Social Summit and the 24th extraordinary session of the General Assembly (2005).

In 2003, Switzerland will participate actively in the preparations for the *Global Summit on the Information Society*, the first part of which is to be held 10-12 December in Geneva, with the second part scheduled for 2005 in Tunis. The aim of this summit is to lay the foundations for more resolute international measures to bridge the digital divide and to use IT tools to help secure sustainable development. This event will bring together leading representatives of the public sector (including heads of state), the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organisations. Following this summit, Switzerland aims to promote a constructive follow-up programme and thus contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Millennium Declaration. One of its priorities here will be the use of new technologies to fight poverty.

Some 42 million people throughout the world have been infected by the HIV/AIDS virus. In view of this, Switzerland intends to attach a great deal of importance to combating this problem in the future. Last year it increased its contributions to *UNAIDS* – the most important international programme to combat HIV/AIDS – to SFr. 4 million from SFr. 2 million. Following an evaluation of its activities during its first five years, UNAIDS intends to redefine its relations with its co-sponsors and partners within the UN. In 2003, Switzerland assumed the co-chairmanship of the Working Group on UNAIDS Governance set up by the Programme Co-ordinating Board. The working group is aiming to optimise co-ordination mechanisms in the fight against HIV/AIDS, thus generating the necessary synergies in its work in the field.

Switzerland aims to continue to demonstrate its solidarity in the *struggle against illegal drugs*. It has been a member of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, CND, on a number of occasions (most recently in 2001). The CND was established as a result of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. The CND normally meets once a year at its head office in Vienna, and Switzerland intends to put forward its candidacy again for 2004. Switzerland is a member of the Major Donors Group, which is part of the UN Drug Control Programme, UNDCP, also based in Vienna. Here, Switzerland is represented in the form of a UN mission. For Switzerland, its membership is important in that it provides an opportunity to exert influence. It is in Switzerland’s interest to continue its financial commitment in this area thus enabling it to remain a member of the influential Major Donors Group and participate in the co-ordination of UN measures in the area of illegal drugs.

2.2.6.3 Environment

Protection of the environment and the natural basis of existence will remain one of Switzerland’s priorities at the next UN General Assembly. The resolutions passed by the latter form an important basis for negotiations in other forums. Switzerland therefore aims to participate in the negotiations in the UN General Assembly and to promote the views it consistently puts forward in other forums such as the Governing Council of the *UN Environment Programme*, UNEP.

Switzerland is particularly anxious to ensure that UNEP, which functions as a central pillar in the global environmental system, is strengthened in the future. It intends to campaign for the observation of fundamental environmental principles (e.g. foresight principle and user-pays principle), as well as to ensure that environmental and trade regulations receive equal recognition and support one another. Switzerland also wants to support efforts

¹⁹ The action plan was approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee in October 2002. It was drawn up following global consultations begun two years earlier in association with the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees. The Protection Agenda calls for measures to afford greater protection to refugees and improve the co-ordination of international efforts in the event of major refugee flows.

aimed at the protection and sustainable utilisation of flora and fauna (*bio-diversity*) and at combating the negative impact of climate change. It aims to ensure that other dimensions of sustainable development, the social and economic components, are realised in harmony with the requirements for a healthy environment

With respect to the *international strategy for the prevention of disasters*, Switzerland will continue to work towards the effective implementation of approved measures, and to campaign for better co-ordination among the institutions, governments and organisations concerned.

Within the scope of its activities at the UN General Assembly, Switzerland aims to intensify its co-operation with like-minded countries, and to identify appropriate ways it can effectively represent its own concerns within the United Nations.

For many years now, international policy in the area of water management has been a strong focus of Switzerland's foreign policy relating to development and the environment. Switzerland co-sponsored the UN resolution with Tajikistan that led to the declaration of 2003 as the *International Year of Fresh Water*. It will emphasise its commitment through a variety of actions at the international level, focusing on the *Third Global Water Forum in March 2003 in Kyoto* and the various activities leading up to this event. Switzerland is active in such areas as promotion of an eco-system approach, liability for damage to the environment, good governance, know-how and technology transfer, and the establishment of a permanent international platform for water-related issues. At the national level it has launched a nation-wide education campaign to draw attention to the global importance of water in the development context.

2.2.6.4 International law

Switzerland will continue to attach a great deal of importance to consolidation and development of international law in the future, and the UN is an especially suitable framework for drawing global attention to this issue.

Switzerland will therefore be actively participating in negotiations concerning a global convention against *terrorism*. Although considerable progress has in fact been achieved, it has not been possible to bring the various efforts to a conclusion due to fundamental differences between the USA and Islamic countries. All options relating to the remaining issues to be dealt with have been tabled, including the definition of terrorism (and its distinction from freedom-fighting), the incorporation of national armed forces and the relationship between a convention and the 12 existing sector conventions on terrorism. As before, Switzerland will support a compromise that observes the principles of international humanitarian law in all cases. At the same time it wants the global convention to focus on filling existing gaps, and not to deal with aspects that have already been regulated in the existing sector agreements.

From Switzerland's point of view, the negotiations concerning better *protection of UN and associated personnel* are growing in importance due to their impact on international humanitarian law. The 1994 convention has shown weaknesses in its application. One of the options supported by Switzerland for achieving long-term improvement concerns the formulation of a protocol that defines legal protection for UN and associated personnel more closely and clarifies its limits – also in relation to international humanitarian law. As a member of the relevant working group, Switzerland will be seeking the extension of legal protection to all UN operations (i.e. not just peacekeeping). It also favours automatic application of the convention instead of the current practice according to which the risks first need to be clarified. Despite reservations on the part of certain countries of the South, the prospects for bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion in the near future are good.

Switzerland is optimistic that negotiations concerning a UN convention against *corruption* now underway at the headquarters of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, UNODC, in Vienna can be concluded by the end of 2003. In this connection it is campaigning in favour of the examination of suitable ways in which misappropriated assets can be returned to their rightful owner.

Switzerland intends to monitor closely efforts aimed at imposing a global ban on *human cloning*. It is in favour of a step-by-step procedure involving a rapid ban on “reproductive” cloning and a separate debate on the more hotly-disputed issue of “therapeutic” cloning. Some countries have expressed doubts concerning the relevance of making such a distinction and are calling for a total ban on human cloning, while others feel that this solution goes too far and prefer to leave open the option of “therapeutic” cloning. Switzerland would find it deeply regrettable if it turns out that the international community is unable to come to an agreement soon on such a fundamental issue. It is essential to make sure that efforts to impose a world-wide ban on human cloning are not superseded by actual developments.

The *International Criminal Court* will remain an issue for the United Nations – under whose aegis it was established. In Switzerland's view, this court is an important instrument for more effectively enforcing the provisions of international humanitarian law and combating the most serious human rights violations. Switzerland will continue campaigning in the UN for the court to become operational as quickly as possible and for guarantees of its continuing ability to operate.

2.2.10 UN finances and personnel

Unlike the other committees, the UN's 5th Committee relating to administrative and budgetary matters convenes for two operational four-week sessions in March and May in addition to the main session. At these sessions it focuses on the financing of specific peacekeeping missions and on other items that it was not possible to debate or bring to a conclusion during the main session.

The budget for 2004/2005 is to be debated at the 58th General Assembly, and as experience has shown discussion will take up practically all the time reserved for this purpose. Another issue that will figure on the agenda is the adjustment of the formula for calculating contributions. It is considered every three years, and in view of the difficulties experienced in 2003 with regard to Argentina's reduction in its contribution, it is likely to extend beyond the bounds of normal discussion.

Another item on the agenda of relevance to Switzerland, partly in view of its role as host country of the UN organisations in Geneva, is the "*Capital Master Plan*" for the total renovation of the UN headquarters in New York. Since New York City authorities have provided land immediately to the south of the UN Secretariat for the construction of the new UN complex, it will be possible to renovate the Secretariat building more efficiently if its entire personnel can be temporarily relocated to the new complex. The renovation and construction work will be undertaken between 2004 and 2009, with completion of the project scheduled for the beginning of 2010 when the personnel of the Secretariat return to their former premises. The UN will remain fully operational during this period, and there are no plans to provisionally transfer any conferences to Geneva. When the new complex has been completed, it will bring practically all the UN services that are currently housed in rented premises under one roof. The project is to be financed by an interest-free loan from the USA. After Congress has given its approval in spring 2003 (the associated costs for the USA will be around USD 550 million), the repayment terms will be finalised at the 58th General Assembly.

This solution was strongly inspired by Switzerland's policy as a host country, through which the Confederation grants interest-free loans to the Building Foundation for International Organisations, FIPOI, with the aim of placing suitable premises at the disposal of international organisations domiciled in Geneva. Other UN members as well as the UN Secretariat were greatly interested in the Swiss model and Swiss experience in this area, thus allowing Switzerland to make a valuable contribution to the discussion of the Capital Master Plan.

Within the scope of the activities of the 5th Committee, Switzerland will continue to call for the observation of strict budgetary discipline in future UN General Assemblies, as well as for greater transparency and predictability with respect to the financing of peacekeeping missions. It will also continue to play its active role in support of financial control and supervision and in underscoring the importance of the UN European headquarters in Geneva.

2.2.11 UN reform

The resolution on the reform agenda that was passed last December represents a significant step towards making the UN more efficient, transparent and innovative. There will undoubtedly be a need for additional changes, but the fact that some member states – most notably developing countries – find the pace set by the Secretary-General too intense should not be overlooked. The reform programme is therefore likely to remain on the agenda of the next few General Assemblies. Switzerland intends to devote itself to the rapid implementation of reform measures, both within the scope of its activities as a full member of the United Nations and specifically through its co-operation with the UN in its capacity as a host country.

Switzerland is in favour of continuing with the *reform of the Security Council*. It particularly wants improvements in the working methods of this body through greater transparency and by broadening the scope for non-member states to become involved in UN activities (e.g. opening discussions to non-member states; regularly providing them with information about the progress of internal consultations; meetings between member states of the Security Council and countries that supply peacekeeping forces). Switzerland is also in favour of reforming the composition of the Security Council. The number of member states needs to be increased, but this has to be limited to ensure that the Security Council's efforts to preserve international peace and security are in no way jeopardised.

As far as *veto rights* are concerned, it is important to bear in mind that, with or without this mechanism, the support of the major powers and their readiness to take action are essential for the success of UN operations aimed at preserving international peace and security. Furthermore, abolishing the veto right and substituting it with a majority vote mechanism might under certain circumstances run contrary to Switzerland's own interests. Although it may be controversial, the principle of veto rights ensures broad international support for Security Council resolutions. Nonetheless, it remains a form of privilege that should be exercised only after very careful deliberation. Switzerland therefore supports certain proposals that call for limited use of this instrument by the permanent members of the Security Council.

Switzerland is also in favour of the implementation of the reform proposals put forward in the Brahimi Report, which are intended to *enhance the capacity of the UN to make decisions and take action without delay*. It will be focusing strongly on measures that lead to greater economic efficiency, above all in the areas of acquisition of materials and the accumulation of reserves. Switzerland will also become a member of the *Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations* in 2003. This is the most important institution for considering ways to improve peacekeeping operations. Switzerland supports the idea that the allocation of leading positions in peacekeeping missions should take account of the financial contributions of member states instead of only the defined quotas as favoured by the majority of countries of the South.

2.2.12 Migration

The issue of migration will be on the agenda at the next General Assembly. In his report to the present General Assembly on the reforms of the UN, Secretary-General Kofi Annan described migration as a priority issue for the

organisation. He also requested a special report on migration that is to be published in the course of this year and will outline the main direction of future UN activities in this area.

The growing disparities between rich and poor countries, as well as within certain nations, combined with armed conflicts and grave infringements of human rights are giving rise to ever-increasing waves of migration involving, according to UN estimates, some 175 million people. The resulting increase in illegal immigration is a particularly complex problem for the countries concerned, which have mainly attempted to find their own internal solutions in the past. However, the issue of migration has recently become a matter for discussion in international forums because its international implications have become so significant that stronger multilateral efforts are essential. The resolution of these problems is to be found primarily in partnerships aimed at sharing the burden equally among the countries and regions concerned.

Switzerland will continue to play a particularly active role in international discussions on the problem of migration, partly through its commitment to the International Organisation for Migration, IOM, and partly through its own "Berne Initiative". This initiative sets out to promote intergovernmental guidelines (Best Practices) for more efficient migration management through closer multilateral co-operation. As part of its activities within the UN, Switzerland will support measures to prevent irregular migration and improve migration management, as well as efforts to end human trafficking. Michael Doyle, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General, is currently compiling a UN report on migration, and has been invited to Berne for talks on this issue.

3 Co-operation with international organisations domiciled in Switzerland

3.1 Introduction

Although the Federal Council for the last three years has submitted a separate report to Parliament on the activities of international organisations domiciled in Switzerland, it has now consulted with the Foreign Affairs Committees of the two chambers and concluded that it would be more appropriate to consider this matter within the scope of its new report on Switzerland's co-operation with the United Nations. Its full membership in the UN also provides additional opportunities for Switzerland to further its own interests as a host country. The majority of the international organisations based in Switzerland are UN institutions, and there is often an interaction between developments and decisions within the main offices of the UN (in particular, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council) and its specialized agencies.

The presence of numerous important organisations in Switzerland (in Geneva and its surroundings, as well as in Berne and Basle) has a historical significance and is based on a long-standing international and humanitarian tradition, affording Switzerland a special status as a host country. It is concerned not only with providing ideal conditions for international organisations and their personnel, but it also has a special interest in ensuring that these institutions function well since they contribute to Switzerland's prestige within the international community.

The core element of Switzerland's host country policy is the international city of Geneva. No other city in the world is so clearly identified with international conferences, conciliation, peace, and environment policy. Furthermore, Switzerland continues to offer significant advantages in terms of location. It is associated with a high standard of living, is easily accessible thanks to an excellent transport network, offers a far-reaching level of security in comparison with other countries, has highly-qualified personnel at its disposal and benefits from synergies with established international institutions, non-governmental organisations and international corporations based in the country. However, there are other factors influencing decisions on domicile that do not necessarily favour Switzerland. These include the relatively high prices, rents and salaries that need to be offset through specific efforts in other areas. In the sphere of security, the federal government and cantonal authorities must now find ways to respond adequately to the new threats that have arisen over the past few years.

Geneva continues to be a highly esteemed and popular meeting place. The Federal Council attaches great importance to close co-operation with the cantons bordering Lake Geneva as well as to all other cantons that are actively involved in Switzerland's host country policy. It is also working more closely with France as its immediate neighbour.

This section of the report outlines the activities of international organisations in Switzerland in 2002, and sets out to describe Switzerland's policy as the headquarters for these institutions and as the host of numerous international conferences.

3.2 Multilateral co-operation

3.2.1 Humanitarian affairs

The adoption of the Protection Agenda by the Executive Committee of the UN High Commission for Refugees in 2002 was a major success achieved by a process that Switzerland had been actively supporting ever since its inception in 2000. The Protection Agenda specifies a variety of measures aimed at meeting more effectively the specific needs of *refugees and people who are dependent on international protection*. The implementation of this agenda was one of the items considered at the 57th General Assembly session. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva has continued its efforts at restructuring. As before, its main goal is to promote more effective co-ordination of humanitarian aid at local levels. Improving co-ordination within the

United Nations is also the reason why the funds and programmes in New York (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA) have partly integrated their humanitarian activities into their offices in Geneva.

Dialogue on international migration policy has intensified within the International Organisation for Migration, IOM²⁰. Switzerland is pursuing its efforts in this area, and is currently working on preparations for an international conference under the auspices of the Berne Initiative with the goal of formulating guidelines for dealing with migration flows.

During the year under review, the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, reorganised its management and appointed Angelo Gnädinger of Switzerland as Director-General. Switzerland and the ICRC jointly celebrated the 25th anniversary of the additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions. To commemorate this occasion, Federal Councillor Joseph Deiss presented the original of the Geneva Convention of 1864 to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum as a permanent loan from the Federal Archives. Switzerland also organised a round-table discussion that focused on the challenges and perspectives of international humanitarian law.

In the year under review, Afghanistan was the main focus in the area of *operational activities of humanitarian organisations*. Drought and famine in Africa, especially in the southern half of the continent, posed major challenges for relief organisations. In various regions of the world, the scope for action on the part of humanitarian institutions remains severely limited due to the high security risks for their personnel. Numerous co-ordination activities and discussions in the area of humanitarian aid took place in Geneva during the year.

3.2.2 Human rights

The draft Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture jointly proposed by Costa Rica and Switzerland was adopted at the annual session of the *Commission on Human Rights* (cf. 2.1.5). Certain developing countries strongly questioned the Commission's mandate to examine the human rights situation throughout the world. The Commission's working methods is due to undergo further revision in 2003. Together with like-minded countries, Switzerland intends to encourage the Commission strongly to structure its procedures according to country and topic and to rationalise them, as well as to base them on criteria that secure compliance with the provisions of humanitarian law.

Although the USA called for a vote, Libya was elected to chair the 59th session (2003) of the Commission on Human Rights in accordance with the traditional rotation among the five regions of the UN. Switzerland was unable to participate in this vote since it is not a member of the Commission, but it intends to apply for membership in the near future (cf. 4.1.2.3).

Sergio Vieira de Mello succeeded Mary Robinson, the former President of the Republic of Ireland, as *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*. Switzerland works closely with the High Commission, providing it with considerable financial support and placing Swiss junior professional officers at its disposal. In 2003, Switzerland will be one of the 10 largest contributors to the organisation.

3.2.3 International security and disarmament policy

With respect to *disarmament*, 2002 was the fourth year in succession in which the planned Disarmament Conference was blocked. In the end a minimal consensus was reached with respect to negotiations on biological weapons. Switzerland continues to support the World Health Organisation, WHO in its efforts to combat bioterrorism.

The focus of disarmament activities in Geneva was extended to include other areas such as anti-personnel mines, conventional weapons and small arms and light weapons. The Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of *Anti-personnel Mines* and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) was held in Geneva. Ambassador Christian Faessler of Switzerland was appointed Secretary-General of the meeting, and Switzerland is to co-chair the Standing Committee for Stockpile Destruction until September 2003. Efforts in the area of *conventional weapons* focused on unexploded munitions and anti-vehicle mines. Switzerland assumed the chairmanship of the Fourth Annual Conference of Protocol II (in its modified form dating from 1996) on the prohibition or restriction of the use of mines, traps and similar devices. This Protocol is attached to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Within the scope of the implementation of the UN's programme on the illicit trade in *small arms and light weapons*, Switzerland and France pursued their joint initiative concerning the marking, registration and traceability of these weapons.

The likelihood that the Disarmament Conference will resume its activities in the near future appears to be very slim. In the area of disarmament, efforts will have to be made to achieve substantial results from the negotiations on biological and conventional weapons. The focus of other activities will continue to be on human security. This applies to anti-personnel mines, small arms and light weapons, two areas containing an important humanitarian component.

3.2.4 Science and technology

The *World Intellectual Property Organisation, WIPO*, continued to extend its range of activities. The organisation is endeavouring to overcome the new challenges to the protection of intellectual property arising as a result of the

²⁰ The IOM is not a UN institution.

rapid progress of technology. It is also trying to make the general public more aware of the importance of intellectual property for economic, social and cultural development. It will organise a summit in Beijing in April 2003 devoted to topical issues relating to intellectual property.

At the level of logistics, the member states of WIPO approved the construction of a new administration building with a conference room for 650 delegates, thereby complying with the recommendation of the Federal Audit Office, SFAO, in an external evaluation of this important project. WIPO has sufficient reserves to finance it on its own, and therefore will not require a loan from the Building Foundation for International Organisations, FIPOI, (cf. 3.3.2.5 below). Construction is scheduled to start in 2003. Switzerland played an active role in the preparation of the project, most recently by arranging the external evaluation by the Federal Audit Office, which was highly praised by WIPO members.

The *European Organisation for Nuclear Research, CERN*, is still trying to overcome a financial crisis resulting from the additional costs arising from the construction of the new Large Hadron Collider, LHC, proton accelerator. Its immediate aim is therefore to improve its financial situation. It plans to focus its programmes on the LHC, introduce stringent financial planning (including the establishment of a new internal auditing unit), define a more appropriate staff policy, and restructure its internal administration. Dr. Robert Aymar of France is due to become Director-General in January 2004.

The *International Telecommunication Union, ITU*, is in the process of organising its next "World Summit on the Information Society", WSIS. Its first phase is in Geneva 10-12 December 2003 and will be attended by representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organisations. Switzerland, as host country, is playing an active role in the preparations for this summit and was again voted onto the ITU Council in September 2002. It thus has an important opportunity to influence the preparations and organisation of the event.

The globalisation and liberalisation of communications is a major challenge to the fundamental objectives of the ITU, as well as to its members and methods of operation. It has initiated a reform process that received the formal support of its executive body at the Plenipotentiary Conference in Marrakesh in autumn 2002. However, the ITU's financial situation is precarious following the decision on the part of a number of industrialised nations to reduce their contributions.

3.2.5 Public health and socio-economic issues

The deliberations in May of the World Health Assembly, the executive body of the *World Health Organisation, WHO*, included the report of an experts commission on the interaction between macroeconomics and public health, and the problem of combating HIV/AIDS. It expected to conclude negotiations on an international framework convention against the use of tobacco in spring 2003 by formally approving the contractual text of the treaty.

Switzerland completed its three-year term of office on the Executive Council of WHO in May 2002. Thomas Zeltner, Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, was appointed chairman of an intergovernmental working group established by the Executive Council in January for the purpose of examining its working methods. Following an interim report to the Executive Council, this working group will continue its activities in 2003.

With the announcement by Director-General Gro Harlem Brundtland that she will not stand for a second term for personal reasons, the WHO will have a new person at the top in summer 2003. At its January 2003 session, the Executive Council proposed Jong Wook Lee of South Korea, who most recently headed WHO's anti-tuberculosis programme in Geneva, as her successor, and it is to be assumed that the World Health Assembly will formally confirm the nomination in May 2003.

Switzerland's mandate as a member of the Governing Body of the *International Labour Organisation, ILO*, ended in 2002. Ambassador Jean-Jacques Elmiger, who is attached to the Directorate of Labour at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, seco, chaired the International Labour Conference in June 2002. The focus of the conference included the pursuit of measures against forced labour in Burma and the situation of workers in territories occupied by Israel. Switzerland is especially concerned with the strengthening of fundamental principles in the areas of labour, human rights, social equality and the fight against poverty. It is able to pursue these commitments within the scope of two projects in southern Africa and China implemented in co-operation with the ILO. Switzerland also signed a co-operation agreement with the ILO, the UN Industrial Development Organisation, UNIDO, and the UN Environment Programme, UNEP, that should lead to the establishment of production centres at national and international levels that meet respective social and environmental standards.

In August, an international conference on protection against radiation at the workplace was held in Geneva. It was organised by the ILO, WHO and IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and chaired by the Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health.

3.2.6 Environment

The most important events in Geneva in 2002 concerning environmental matters included a seminar on environment and human rights that was supported by Switzerland and organised by the UN Environment Programme, UNEP, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; the 19th General Assembly of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, 17 - 20 April; the 6th round of negotiations for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Convention), 17 - 21 June; and the 6th Conference of States Parties to the Basle Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste, 9 - 13 December. In the area of chemicals, one of the priorities of Switzerland's environmental policy, the importance of

Geneva increased following the approval of the strategy paper for chemicals at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

The annual World Environment Day was held again in June, and UNEP celebrated its 30th anniversary in the International Environment House, IEH, in December. A variety of events relating to environmental policy were held at this location within the framework of the Geneva Environment Network, GEN, which links all organisations and institutions operating in Geneva in the area of environmental protection. Many of these were concerned with preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The results of the event held by the GEN devoted to the Foresight Principle were subsequently summarised in a special report distributed at the WSSD during the negotiations on this topic. In this way, Switzerland was effective in promoting Geneva as a centre for international environmental activities.

To ensure the attractiveness of Geneva in the future, it is essential for Switzerland to pursue its active commitment in this respect. This includes the continued support of the GEN and the provision of an optimal infrastructure.

3.2.7 Trade, development and the economy

Following the initiation of a new round of world trade talks in Doha, Qatar in November 2001, the responsible committees within the *World Trade Organisation, WTO*, agreed to organise negotiations within a few months and started them almost immediately. The following eight negotiating committees were involved: agriculture, market access for industrial goods, services, WTO regulations, the relationship between trade and environment, the registration of geographical denomination for wines and spirits, preferential treatment for developing countries, and settlement of disputes. At the same time, negotiations were held concerning the problems facing developing countries with respect to implementing the WTO Convention, and protecting the patent rights on drugs and medication.

On 1 September, Supachai Panitchpakdi of Thailand became the first representative of a developing country to preside over the WTO, succeeding Mike Moore of New Zealand as Director General of this powerful institution. He will remain in office until summer 2005.

During the year under review, the main development within the *European Free Trade Association, EFTA*, was the enactment of an agreement amending the 1960 EFTA Convention. At the same time, the seven sector agreements between Switzerland and the European Union came into effect. With the exception of the agreement on scientific and technological co-operation, the agreement resulting in the amendment of the EFTA Convention places the contractual relations between Switzerland and the other EFTA states at a level comparable to relations between Switzerland and the EU after the bilateral sector agreements come into effect. Its provisions also supplement the EFTA Convention in new areas such as services, capital flow and the protection of intellectual property.

EFTA also held numerous negotiations on policies towards third-party nations, one of which led to the conclusion of a free-trade agreement with Singapore. The free-trade agreements concluded with Croatia, Jordan and Macedonia in 2001 also came into effect.

During 2002, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) focussed primarily on an interim assessment of the programme of action approved by the UNCTAD X conference in Bangkok in 2000. At the same time, it analysed the functions of institutional mechanisms (special sessions, commissions, council) that assure intergovernmental dialogue within the organisation and carried out a thorough review of activities in the area of technological co-operation. From Switzerland's point of view, the interim assessment was a positive one. The implementation of the Bangkok programme of action is proceeding well. The analysis of the various functions has yielded concrete results that can serve as the basis for increasing the efficiency of intergovernmental mechanisms. The next UNCTAD Conference (UNCTAD XI) is planned for Brazil in 2004. Switzerland finances various UNCTAD projects and programmes, including a new initiative for the protection of bio-diversity launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, WSSD, in Johannesburg.

At its annual assembly, the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, ECE*, focused on labour market policy. Its Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development organised a seminar on trade concessions, the final meeting of which was chaired by the Swiss delegate responsible for world trade agreements.

The *Universal Postal Union (UPU)*, a UN intergovernmental institution in Berne, organised a conference on strategy at the end of October in Geneva, which was dedicated to structural changes in postal services, market regulation and the role of postal services in the information society.

The *Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail, OTIF*, in Berne with its Swiss Director General, is currently in a transition phase. A revised version of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail, COTIF, is expected to come into effect in 2004, providing the legal basis for the reorientation of the organisation. Switzerland has already ratified the agreement, and it can be assumed that the EU will also accede to COTIF, thus increasing the Convention's significance for uniform legislation with regard to international rail transport.

The *Bank for International Settlements, BIS*, with headquarters in Basle, is an international organisation mandated to strengthen co-operation between central banks and other institutions in the interest of monetary and financial stability. The heads of the central banks of the G-10 countries and of the European Central Bank (ECB) meet regularly at the BIS headquarters to exchange information. Through the enlargement of its group, the activities of the BIS have assumed an increasingly global character.

In the course of 2002, the four standing committees of the BIS made significant contributions to the solidity of financial institutions, to more efficient markets and to a stable infrastructure for transactions. They focused on a

revision of the recommendations for equity capital for international banks, on the stability of international financial markets (especially in emerging countries), on the increasingly important market for credit risks and on the effects of the assertiveness of institutional investors. The chair of its Markets Committee was assumed by a representative of the Swiss National Bank in 2002.

At the beginning of 2003, the Federal Council concluded a series of written negotiations with the BIS. This resulted in an amendment in the domicile agreement of 10 February 1987 with the Bank. It was granted full immunity from jurisdiction and judicial enforcement, and the tax exemption to which its employees are entitled was extended to include Swiss employees in view of the introduction of an internal taxation scheme.

3.3 Activities of Switzerland as a host country

3.3.1 Overview of Switzerland's host country policy

The decision to become a full member of the United Nations was by far the most significant development relating to Switzerland's host country policy. This decision strengthens Switzerland's position in the world, and its membership in the UN consolidates the role of the country both as host to numerous intergovernmental organisations and as a location for conferences and multilateral talks.

This is especially important because Switzerland needs to remain highly competitive. Other European cities such as Vienna, Bonn and The Hague can also offer office space and premises for conferences and similar events at conditions attractive to international institutions. Thanks to its advantages in terms of location, Switzerland is able to remain competitive, but it also has to be prepared to meet new challenges resolutely.

In the year under review, a number of high-level events relating to the French language and culture were held in Switzerland. In July the Parliamentary Assembly of the Intergovernmental Organisation of French-speaking Countries convened for four days at the parliament buildings in Berne. The Congress of the International Union of the French-speaking Press was held in Geneva in September while Lausanne played host to the Conference of French-Speaking Ministers 12 - 13 December.

Beyond the region of Lake Geneva, negotiations on a cease-fire in the Nuba Mountains were held on the Bürgenstock (Canton Nidwalden) in January 2002 between representatives of the government of Sudan and leaders of the rebel groups. Thanks to mediation by Switzerland and the USA, it was possible to bring these talks to a successful conclusion.

Geneva International was able to enhance its status as a centre for international co-operation on environmental issues, either as the seat of international environmental organisations or as a location for conferences. The presence of numerous environmental institutions and the fact that some 150 nations have a diplomatic mission in Geneva enables a high degree of synergy and efficiency in the co-operation between the various institutions and states. Another significant factor contributing to the attractiveness of Geneva is Switzerland's willingness to offer modern premises and facilities at preferential conditions.

The Federal Council is pursuing its strategy of increasing the focus of environmental activities in the region of Lake Geneva. For example, at the end of the year it offered to house the permanent secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, POPs, in Geneva. Both Italy (Rome) and Switzerland (Geneva) are candidates to host the head office of the permanent secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC Convention). The realisation of a carefully conceived and intensive campaign for these two candidacies will be one of the main priorities in Switzerland's host country policy in 2003.

3.3.2 "Geneva International"

3.3.2.1 Facts and figures

Geneva International, with approximately 20 intergovernmental organisations, 200 non-governmental organisations and around 35,000 international public officials, members of diplomatic missions, family members and domestic staff, is the heart of Switzerland's host country policy. There are now more than 200 permanent missions and delegations in Geneva. Cambodia and Mali each opened a permanent mission in 2002 at the UN Office in Geneva, UNOG, while China and Pakistan each opened a second special mission at the World Trade Organisation, WTO. This means that 149 countries have a diplomatic mission in Geneva.

3.3.2.2 Assisting international diplomats and officials in Geneva

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland plays an important and multi-faceted role assisting members of diplomatic missions and international organisations in Geneva, providing services that range from administrative tasks (legitimation cards, visas, etc.) to mediation and integrative aspects. It works closely with the "Welcome Centre - Geneva International" and the "Fondation pour Genève".

During the past 12 months, the Permanent Mission issued 18,324 legitimation cards (new cards, extensions, replacements, amendments for family members, changes of status). These cards are the equivalent of the residence permits issued by federal authorities. As many as 3,600 members of diplomatic missions (together with 3,500 family members and 290 domestic staff) and 18,300 international civil servants (together with 9,000 family members and 350 domestic staff), currently hold a legitimation card. Nineteen per cent enjoy diplomatic status and

76% benefit from official immunity. Five per cent are not entitled to any privileges or forms of immunity and have only residence permits. Sixty-eight per cent have their legal residence in Switzerland (80% in the canton of Geneva, 13% in the canton of Vaud), and 32% reside across the border in France.

Various new instruments have been developed to provide better information to the members of diplomatic missions and international organisations in Switzerland *about the privileges and immunities to which they are entitled under international law*. At the request of authorities and police in the cantons of Geneva and Vaud, the Swiss Permanent Mission now provides detailed information in this respect. It also provides information to newly-arrived diplomats at the UN Institute for Training and Research, UNITAR. In addition, guidelines concerning privileges and immunities have recently become available on the Mission's website. As of 2003, it was planned to initiate a series of specific courses for the various groups (the international community, Swiss administrative authorities and the private sector) to meet the growing demand for information about the applicable regulations.

Protection of domestic staff employed by members of permanent missions or international officials is an important issue. In 1998, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) issued a directive that specifies the conditions governing the employment of domestic staff, a copy of which was sent to all permanent missions and international organisations. It resulted in significant improvements in employment conditions as well as a more balanced situation. The regulations introduced by Switzerland now even serve as a model for other countries, especially within Europe.

In the year under review, the services provided by the federal government, the cantons of Geneva and Vaud, and private partners such as the "*Welcome Centre – Geneva International*", CAGI, to help international personnel find suitable accommodation were once again in great demand. In view of the difficulties in this particular area, the assistance provided by CAGI is highly appreciated and has come to be regarded as an essential service for the international community. Visitors to the Centre often call on its services to place their children in private schools and day nurseries. Despite growing demand, the number of available places has not increased. In 2002 CAGI also organised numerous events for members of international organisations and permanent missions in Geneva.

3.3.2.3 Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

The role played by non-governmental organisations in the area of international co-operation has been constantly growing in importance in recent years, and today they are significant partners in numerous multilateral forums. In recognition of their significance, Switzerland supports countless projects managed by NGOs.

The *World Civil Society Forum* in Geneva was the most important event for Switzerland in 2002 in its capacity as host country. It was organised by the Welcome Centre for Non-Governmental Organisations and Delegations, CADONG, a Geneva NGO offering special reception facilities for NGO conference participants. The federal government supports the World Forum with a contribution of SFr. 250,000, with the necessary premises being placed at its disposal free of charge by the Building Foundation for International Organisations (cf. 3.3.2.5).

The Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, SDC, contributes significant amounts to NGOs in Geneva through the Genevan Federation for Co-operation, GFC, which is also co-financed by cantonal, urban and municipal authorities. Their contributions for the period 2002 - 2004 amount to SFr. 11 million.

One decision in particular to choose Geneva as a base for headquarters deserves special recognition. The *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*, GF-ATM, was formally established as an institution under Swiss private law at the beginning of 2002. It goes back to an initiative by the Group of Eight leading industrialised nations, G-8, and is jointly supported by partners in both the public and private sectors. It represents a new financing mechanism providing additional funding for combating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. To date it has received a total of USD 2.2 billion. Its choice of Geneva as its official domicile enhances the city's reputation as a centre for international public health policy.

The cantons are mainly responsible for implementing Switzerland's host country policy towards NGOs, while the federal government supports them within the scope of specific projects. It is also able to grant start-up aid to NGOs of particular importance to Switzerland. The canton of Geneva appointed an NGO co-ordinator some time ago to serve as a liaison for matters of concern to them. These include issues related to tax exemption, obtaining work permits and finding subsidised office premises.

3.3.2.4 Security

As host country, Switzerland is responsible for the security of diplomatic missions, international organisations and conferences within its sovereign territory. As before, *effective security arrangements* are essential, and the emergency measures initiated by the Federal Council following the events of 11 September 2001 are still in effect. For the time being, 70 members of the military security corps will continue to support Geneva police in their efforts to protect diplomatic facilities. In addition, the recruitment and training of personnel for the *Geneva Police Corps for Diplomatic Security*, which is financed by the federal government, were accelerated in 2002 through the organisation of two special training programmes. Unfortunately many of the newly-trained personnel dropped out of service after only a relatively short time. Of the 93 members who had undergone training since 1997, only 56 were still active at the end of 2002. To counter this trend it was decided to expand and diversify the duties of the group, with the aim of increasing the number of security guards to 120 over the medium term.

In view of the perceived threat of terrorist attacks in the USA, the UN General Assembly resolved to place the equivalent of USD 21 million at the disposal of the UN European headquarters in Geneva for the purpose of increasing security measures. The relevant federal authorities act in an advisory capacity in the implementation of the measures.

3.3.2.5 Real Estate Policy and the Building Foundation for International Organisations (FIPOI)

The Building Foundation for International Organisations is the most important partner of the federal and cantonal governments in Geneva for the implementation of its real estate policy for international organisations. The Foundation intends to extend its mandate to include *Canton Vaud* in the near future so that the high level of demand on the Geneva property market can be more adequately covered.

The Foundation was involved as a consultant and associate in the construction of a new headquarters for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which was completed at the end of November. The federal authorities supported the project with an interest-free loan of SFr. 9.5 million, and a separate contribution of SFr. 200,000.

The Balxert (BAB) Administration Building currently being constructed by the FIPOI at its own cost is scheduled for completion by late summer 2003. It is located in the immediate vicinity of the International Environment House, which also belongs to the FIPOI, and with its opening, Geneva will be taking a further step towards becoming a major centre for international co-operation in the area of environmental protection.

Demand for low-cost rental premises such as those of the International Environment House is nonetheless considerable, partly because the needs of intergovernmental organisations already domiciled in Geneva are constantly growing, but also because a variety of conventions and co-operation programmes would like to house their secretariats here. However, as the federal government is forced to place its increasingly limited financial support at the disposal of priority projects, it will unfortunately not be possible to fully meet the larger demand.

3.3.3 Perspectives for the development of Switzerland's host country policy, taking into account the regional dimension

Now that it is a full member of the United Nations, Switzerland is in a stronger position to secure Geneva's status as the most important centre for UN activities outside New York. With this in mind, the host country policy of Switzerland, especially in priority areas of its foreign policy, aims to offer excellent conditions and exploit synergies on the one hand, and a platform for the specific interests of Switzerland on the other.

In the second half of 2002, Switzerland defined a *concept for its host country policy* to intensify and further develop a coherent programme for the entire country. Although the focus will continue to be on Geneva and its surroundings, all cantons involved were asked to comment on the concept.

An in-depth analysis of the existing situation revealed that Switzerland's host country policy to a large extent takes into account the needs of international organisations and institutions. Although there is still need for change at certain levels (political, diplomatic, legal, structural, security), Switzerland offers excellent and internationally competitive conditions. As far as Geneva International in particular is concerned, the development of regional and cross-border co-operation is both a challenge and an opportunity for the host country policy. This will improve Switzerland's ability to provide essential and practical infrastructures enabling the representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations established here over the long term and delegates to international conferences to enjoy optimal conditions during their stays (accommodation at reasonable prices, bilingual schools and colleges, public and private transportation between home and the work place).

From the point of view of its host country policy, 2003 is a landmark year for Switzerland with a number of important events scheduled.

The *annual conference of heads of state and government leaders of the eight leading industrialised nations (G-8)* is to be held in Evian on the French side of Lake Geneva at the beginning of June. As an immediate neighbour, Switzerland, and in particular Geneva, will face major challenges in the areas of security and logistics. The authorities of the cantons of Vaud, Valais and Geneva, as well as the Federal Council, have entrusted Pierre Aepli – the former police commander for Canton Vaud – with the task of co-ordinating the various activities required of Switzerland. He is working closely with all the relevant federal offices, which are providing him with as much support as possible.

Another significant event from Switzerland's point of view is the *International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent*, which takes place every four years. The International Conference is the highest body of the movement. The 2003 meeting is scheduled for 2 - 6 December in Geneva and Switzerland will once again be providing financial support as well as actively participating in it. The Federal Council has also appointed a Swiss diplomat to act as commissioner for the Conference.

Finally, there is the *World Summit on the Information Society* 10 - 12 December 2003 in Geneva. This event is being organised by the International Telecommunication Union at Switzerland's invitation (cf. 2.1.7 and 2.2.7).

With respect to *construction activities*, the FIPOI is currently managing two major projects in Geneva involving additional premises for the World Health Organisation, WHO, and the World Trade Organisation, WTO, both of which will be ready for implementation in 2003. Planning has almost been completed for the WHO project which includes a large number of additional offices for the WHO-administered UNAIDS programme. A message to

Parliament requesting an FIPOI loan is currently being drawn up, and is to be submitted to the Federal Assembly in the second half of 2003. Together with the WTO, the FIPOI is organising a competition for architects for the design of the new building. The definitive decision is expected in the first half of the year. The Federal Council will then send another message to Parliament relating to this project. According to the FIPOI, the two projects will each require a loan of about SFr. 60 million.

The planning stage for the “*Maison de la Paix*” (Peace House) in Geneva should be concluded in 2003. This pioneering project under the management of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS) will house a number of organisations active in the area of peace promotion. The main occupants will be the three centres focusing on security and disarmament that have been established in Geneva by Switzerland and other countries: the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). They were initially conceived and founded as a Swiss contribution to the Partnership for Peace, PfP, programme. In the meantime, however, a variety of specific areas of co-operation have arisen between each of these centres and UN institutions that can be significantly expanded and strengthened through the “*Maison de la Paix*”.

This project involves the construction of a complex in the international quarter of Geneva with an area of around 30,000m² and is expected to cost approximately SFr. 100 million. When it is completed, those organisations and institutions active in the area of peace promotion will benefit from a unique network for co-operation. At the same time, the new complex will strengthen the profile of Geneva as a centre for the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

4 Candidacies and Swiss personnel within the UN

4.1 Planning Swiss candidacies within the UN system

4.1.1 General framework

Full membership in the United Nations has opened up important new opportunities for Switzerland. It may now participate in the election of candidates for executive and other high-level bodies, and put forward its own candidates²¹. If Switzerland succeeds in being represented where important decisions are made, it will increase its chances of being heard and putting forward its ideas.

Switzerland had already nominated candidates for special agencies and UN programmes in which it was involved before it became a full member of the United Nations on 10 September 2002. Thus our country was already represented in a large number of executive committees and the management within these organisations. Membership in the UN provides a much broader range of functions and a larger scope for manoeuvre in terms of exchanging votes in favour of its own candidacies.

In terms of candidacies, Switzerland’s accession to the UN got off to a very positive start, even though competition is tougher than ever and there is no guarantee of success. An example is the failure of Barbara Ott to be elected as judge on the International Criminal Court, despite her excellent qualifications and a highly active election campaign on the part of the federal administration.

The planning of a candidacy is therefore crucial. An overview of all potential Swiss candidates within the UN is an essential prerequisite, both for executive bodies and for leading elective positions. Decisions on candidates should be based on an evaluation of their importance for Switzerland’s foreign policy as well as on their chances for a successful election. Once a decision to present a candidate has been made, conditions must be created to ensure the candidate’s success.

In certain cases, vacancies are filled on the basis of a predefined method involving the allocation of quotas to regional groups of countries in accordance with an internal rotation system. Sometimes the number of candidates is the same as the number of vacant positions. This situation is referred to as a “clean slate”.

Switzerland belongs to the West European and Others Group, WEOG, which currently comprises 29 member states²². It was presided over by Switzerland in January 2003. The expansion of the European Union to include 12 new member states by May 2004 is likely to initiate discussion on the present system of regional groups and the rotation system. As the WEOG is continually expanding, Switzerland will find it increasingly difficult to become integrated into a possible rotation system. In addition, there have been various proposals to revise the composition of the regional groups. To deal with this problem, Switzerland must take the following position:

- It will continue to try to integrate itself into existing or future rotation systems so that it can defend its interests with respect to certain important candidacies.
- At the same time it will assume an active role in ongoing discussions concerning the composition and rotation of regional groups, especially as these will intensify with the approaching expansion of the European Union.

²¹ Here a distinction should be made between candidacies for seats or executive positions in international organisations that are awarded by resolution of the member states – through election or co-optation – and are dealt with in this chapter, and candidacies for executive positions within international organisations by Swiss citizens who may be nominated by the personnel section or executive management of the organisation concerned. The latter is described in section 4.2 below.

²² Members of WEOG: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the USA and Switzerland.

- On the other hand, if no satisfactory rotation scheme should be found or developed, Switzerland would nonetheless be able to submit its candidacy in the event that a “clean slate” procedure should not be possible and after thoroughly analysing its candidacy.

Switzerland frequently has to initiate promotion campaigns for its candidacies. Although the quality and motivation of candidates are of immense importance in any campaign, these are usually not sufficient to win an election. Each campaign must be carefully planned in all detail with regard to the position and to the candidate. If Switzerland is to persuade its partners to support its candidates, it has to take suitable diplomatic steps and the candidates occasionally have to meet decisive individuals or groups. Here, Switzerland’s diplomatic missions abroad will be playing an increasingly important role in supporting our candidacies.

Exchanging votes with other countries in the form of direct or indirect mutual support is another important activity associated with candidacies. For this purpose the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has set up a database known as “EDA-IO-Elect”. It contains details of candidacies by all members of international organisations, as well as the proposals for exchanging votes for Switzerland’s own candidacies, regardless of their success. With this tool we are able to readily provide our international partners with precise details concerning candidacies Switzerland has supported, and vice versa.

4.1.2 Perspectives

4.1.2.1 Secretariat

Switzerland already has a certain number of its citizens in important positions within the UN Secretariat. These are not subject to an election procedure. Appointments are usually made by the Secretary-General. But in view of the immense political importance, these posts are filled only after consultation and in agreement with the majority of member states. There is considerable potential for Swiss specialists to fill these positions, although this doubtlessly depends on the availability of qualified candidates and the assessment of the Secretary-General and the nominating committee.

4.1.2.2 General Assembly

In view of the existing system of rotation among regional groups of countries and the availability of suitable candidates who have received a certain recognition for their work at the General Assembly in New York, it is very likely that Switzerland will assume certain functions in the General Assembly and its committees (chairs, vice-chairs, rapporteurs, etc.) within the next few years.

With the expansion of the *UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)*, Switzerland has submitted its candidacy for a seat on this commission for 2003. Even as an observer, Switzerland has always closely followed its activities and given it generous financial support.

In the near future, Swiss candidacies could well be considered for the committee that manages the investments of the pension fund for UN personnel, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). These institutions play a major role in the areas of planning and budgetary control within the UN.

4.1.2.3 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) convenes in Switzerland every two years²³, thereby confirming the importance of Geneva as an international centre. The sessions address fundamental issues and hold elections for many of the associated UN institutions such as the Human Rights Commission. An active participation on the part of Switzerland is therefore justified. Because the various countries and regional groups are still discussing the modalities of the rotation system, it will be several years before Switzerland can hope for a seat on this council.

Protecting and promoting human rights are among the priorities of Switzerland’s foreign policy. Therefore a candidacy for a seat in the UN Human Rights Commission, UNHRC, in 2007 is perfectly in keeping with this line. The HRC is currently discussing the possibility of introducing the rotation system. Switzerland is already represented on two of the six committees in the area of human rights. These are the Commission on Human Rights (until the end of 2006) and the Commission on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (until the end of 2004). In spite of these, a candidacy for the *Committee on the Rights of the Child* in 2005 is also conceivable. However, Switzerland’s membership in the other committees must be taken into account.

Although Switzerland is one of the largest contributors to the UN Research Institute for Social Development, UNRISD, in Geneva, it has never had a seat on its Board. However, there would be a potential seat on the Board as soon as it has been vacated by the West European and Others Group, most likely in 2005.

It is possible that seats will also be available on various other UN committees. These include the Statistical Commission in which the Federal Office for Statistics has been extremely active during the past few years, in spite of its observer status, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in which Switzerland frequently participated as a signatory state to the Drug Control Conventions, and for which it intends to be a candidate again in 2004.

²³ ECOSOC will be convening in Geneva in 2003 and 2005.

Candidacies are also being considered for the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

4.1.2.4 Security Council

Of the 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council – the body that bears the main responsibility for preserving peace and international security – two are reserved for members of the West European and Others Group, WEOG. Elections are held every two years for a two-year term of office. The members of the WEOG have already announced their candidacies for all seats that are due to become vacant until 2012. These seats are highly coveted, and those countries entitled to submit a candidacy make their preparations well in advance through extensive campaigns and lobbying. However, the existing “clean slate” procedure is not entirely immune to change, and is often not recognised by members of the various regional groups. As a new member of the UN, Switzerland can set its sights on a *candidacy for a Security Council seat in the medium term*. However, it will need to make a definite decision relatively soon if it wants to be incorporated into the “clean slate” system before 2020. In view of the immense political significance of such a move, the Foreign Affairs Committees of Parliament will have to be consulted before any candidacy is submitted. In this way the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is adhering to commitments made to the Committees during the hearings on Swiss UN membership 3 - 4 April 2001.

4.1.2.5 Funds and programmes, specialised agencies and the International Court of Justice

Switzerland is a member of the Executive Board of the *United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF*, for the period from 2002 to 2004, and holds its presidency for 2003. It is also on the Executive Board of the *UN Population Fund, UNFPA*, for 2002-2003, and a member of the Executive Board of the *World Food Programme, WFP*, until the end of 2003. Based on the present rotation system, it will again be a candidate for a seat on the WFP Executive Board in 2005.

Although it is host country to the *World Meteorological Organisation, WMO*, in Geneva, Switzerland has seldom had a seat on its Executive Council (its last term of office being in 1975). In view of this, Switzerland submitted the candidacy of the director of *MeteoSchweiz*. Elections are to be held at the next WMO Congress in May 2003.

Switzerland is considering a candidacy for the *Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO*, for either 2003 or 2005. Switzerland is one of the significant financial contributors to this organisation and strongly supports it in the form of numerous activities in a variety of areas.

Switzerland will be a candidate for a seat on the *Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)* for the period between 2006 and 2008. In view of the existing rotation system for small groups of countries, the candidacy should be a routine matter.

Switzerland is host country to the *International Telecommunication Union, ITU*, and traditionally holds a seat on its Board of Directors. It was re-elected for another four-year term by an overwhelming majority in 2002, and will almost certainly be a candidate again in 2006.

On the other hand, the question of a candidacy for the *Board of Governors of the International Labour Organisation, ILO*, to which Switzerland belonged between 1999 and 2002 and chaired 1999-2000, remains open since the regulations governing the rotation system within the European group are to be reviewed by 2005, and may subsequently undergo certain modifications.

Switzerland is also a member of the *Advisory Board of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO*, until the end of 2004.

Finally, with its large number of highly qualified legal experts, Switzerland can well anticipate a candidacy as *judge* on the International Court of Justice in the Hague, ICJ.

4.2 Swiss nationals working for the UN

4.2.1 Overview

The UN as a whole, including its special organisations, employs more than 200,000 people throughout the world. Many, such as teachers and nurses working in refugee camps, truck drivers and office personnel, are locally recruited logistical staff. The rest are specialists, such as agronomists, doctors, lawyers, economists, statisticians, translators, etc., who are recruited internationally.

There are Swiss nationals employed in both of these categories. In mid-2002, there were 172 Swiss in the central services of the United Nations of which 130 were in the first category and were largely recruited in Geneva, while 42 were specialists on assignment at various locations around the world. In addition, 114 Swiss were employed as specialists by 24 institutions and agencies associated with the United Nations²⁴.

As of mid-2002, the UN employed 156 Swiss specialists in 46 different countries and some 200 Swiss in the field of logistics most of them locally recruited, usually in Geneva.

²⁴ International financial institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and regional banks are not included in this figure.

4.2.2. Effects of UN membership on recruitment of Swiss nationals

Contrary to the common belief, only few UN assignments are made on the basis of geographic quotas. The majority of UN organisations recruit the best possible personnel available on the world market in terms of professional qualifications and experience. Another important actor is fluency in more than one of the six official UN languages (English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French and Russian). Only then are nationality and gender taken into consideration, together with other criteria, so that a balance is maintained between gender and between industrialised and developing countries. Most positions are filled on the basis of these priorities. Until Switzerland joined the UN, Swiss candidates competing with equally qualified and experienced contenders from other countries were disadvantaged in the hiring process because they came from a non-UN country.

About 2700 positions in the central services of the United Nations are subject to geographic distribution requirements. This includes positions in political bodies such as the Security Council, the General Assembly, UNCTAD and the five regional economic commissions. The quota for Switzerland is about 1%, reflecting its financial contribution to the UN budget, and is equivalent to between 25 and 30 jobs. Prior to UN membership, Swiss nationals occupied 11 posts, mainly in UNCTAD. Through UN membership, Switzerland may expect to hold about 15 additional positions.

Once Switzerland's membership had been approved by the UN General Assembly, Swiss nationals could apply for qualifying examinations for all positions with geographical quotas for countries with insufficient representation in terms of staff numbers. No figures are available on the number of Swiss candidates. However, it is known that a total of 18,000 applications were submitted within the deadline.

The effect of Switzerland's membership in the United Nations on the quality of UN staffing has been notable, because Swiss candidates, with equal qualifications, are no longer excluded on the basis of nationality.

4.2.3 Increase in number of Swiss working for intergovernmental organisations

Switzerland is a member of about 100 intergovernmental organisations. Thanks to its solid financial condition, it is able to pay both voluntary and obligatory contributions, ranking it the world's 14th largest financial contributor. The status gives Switzerland a special weight in the decision-making process. The number of Swiss nationals employed in UN organisations does not adequately reflect this financial power. The international role that Switzerland could play through its financial position is therefore weakened by the relatively modest number of employees.

Investigations show that a majority of Swiss currently employed by the UN and other international organisations are already advanced in age and many are soon to retire. The pool of junior staff from which replacements may be found is insufficient. Unless steps are taken to correct this situation, the already modest number of Swiss personnel will decline in the coming years. To counteract this development, the DFA has created a special section to encourage Swiss staff to apply for jobs with international organisations.

Switzerland's representation in international organisations in terms of staffing is generally decreasing. This is due in particular to the higher age and retirement of present staff members and to the hesitancy of many Swiss to accept a position in a geographical area in which conditions are difficult. It is therefore important to encourage Swiss university graduates to consider careers in the UN or other international organisations.

4.2.4 Information for prospective applicants

The Federal Council is aware that the general public has relatively little knowledge of international organisations. This is particularly true of university graduates, the group being targeted by recruitment efforts. A campaign, including workshops and lectures, was especially conceived for this group and proved to be a great success. A growing number of students are now considering a career in the UN or other international organisation as they approach graduation. The campaign will be conducted again in 2003. International organisations are also beginning to actively canvass the Swiss labour market in response to various promotion efforts made by the federal administration.

It is not unusual to receive hundreds if not thousands of applications for positions advertised internationally however and the quality of university education at the international level has improved substantially over the last two decades. While universities in Switzerland, Europe and North America continue to live up to their outstanding reputations, universities in countries such as China, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Mexico, Brazil and Chile – to name only a few – are today also able to offer comparable degree programmes of which they can be proud. Highly qualified people from Eastern Europe and Russia are also becoming available on the international job market, whereas just 10 years ago they were virtually impossible to find. This is an inherently positive development, but it is also intensifies competition.

Young Swiss seeking jobs in the UN or other international organisations are being confronted with more competitive conditions. The Federal Council therefore wants to intensify its efforts to provide information to young graduates of Swiss universities.

4.2.5 Programme for qualified junior staff

As in the private sector, international organisations often require two to three years job experience as a prerequisite, even for entry-level positions. University graduates are therefore finding that even an excellent degree

is not enough to secure them a position commensurate with their qualifications. It is not uncommon for graduates discouraged by this situation to accept temporary jobs on short-term renewable contracts, which sometimes pay well but are unrelated to their fields of competence. As a result, they gradually lose the skills and knowledge acquired during their studies. Others find jobs abroad, frequently in North America, and not all return to Switzerland²⁵. The investment of the federal government and the cantons in the education of these people is ineffectively utilised, or even lost to the national economy.

To meet employment demand, a bridge must be built between the academic world and the international organisations. It must guarantee the acquisition of practical experience that in turn will lead to a genuine career.

The measures used in a number of western countries can generally be divided into two groups:

Some countries, mostly those in the Anglo-Saxon area, support the start of a professional career by offering bank loans at preferred conditions. They are a form of *risk capital*, invested in the professional future of young university graduates and allowing them to work off a debt while earning only a minimal salary. The advantage of this practice is that the persons concerned assume the responsibility. The disadvantage is the start of a career under difficult conditions.

Other countries, mainly those in continental Europe, use the international organisations²⁶. They place young university graduates for two to three years in positions with the international organisations that are most important to them. Within the context of the specific programme, the country sending the graduate is responsible for the salary. In this way the UN is able to train over 1,000 junior staff. After completion of the contractual period and after having acquired valuable international experience, the person may either remain with the organisation, join the government service of his or her home country or enter the private sector.

The Federal Council intends to continue its efforts to recruit qualified young Swiss for the UN and other international organisations and to submit a proposal to Parliament to initiate a federal programme that would place Swiss junior staff in positions within the UN and other international organisations.

²⁵ Statistics show that the net migration of academics between the USA and Switzerland during the 1990s was approximately 400 persons per year in favour of the USA. Each one of these people generated 3–5 jobs in the USA.

²⁶ According to a recent survey of 16 countries, 14 have such a programme in place.

List of appendices

- 1a Development of Switzerland's obligatory contributions to the UN, 2001–2003
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- 2 Statements made by Switzerland at the 57th session of the General Assembly
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Development of Switzerland's obligatory contributions to the UN, 2001–2003

(in Swiss francs)

	2001	2002		2003
	As observer 1.1.–31.12.2001	Pro rata as observer	Pro rata as full member	(Budget)
1. Regular budget	6,522,504	5,570,392	6,189,325	25,800,897
2. UN courts of justice				
– International criminal court for former Yugoslavia			596,598	2,455,635
– International criminal court for Rwanda			481,992	2,027,571
3. Peace-keeping operations			13,075,043	42,980,784
c Contributions to funds for two- year budget period, 2002–2003:				
– Working capital fund			2,229,500	
– Reserve fund for peace-keeping operations			3,344,250	
Total	6,522,504	5,570,392	25,916,708	73,264,887

Conversion rates USD-SFr.

2001 = 1.65

2002 = 1.75

2003 = 1.50

Overview of Switzerland's contributions to the UN in 2001

(in Swiss francs)

1	UN headquarters	
1.1	UN (see Appendix 1a)	6,522,504
1.2	Voluntary contributions to peace-keeping operations	7,811,902
1.3	Affiliated organisations, institutions and commissions*	199,209,085
	Total UN headquarters	213,543,491
2	Specialized agencies**	63,551,919
3	World Bank, International Monetary Fund (Bretton Woods) and associated institutions***	239,269,318
	Total 1+2+3 (UN)	516,364,728
*	In the areas of development, humanitarian aid, human rights, environment, research and education	
**	FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ICAO, ILO, ITU, IMO, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO WMO	
***	CGIAR, GEF, IDA, IFC, MIGA	

Statements made by Switzerland to the 57th Session of the General Assembly

These are available on the Internet at
www.eda.admin.ch/newyork_miss/f/home.html

General Assembly – plenary :

- 10.09.2002: Speech by the President of the Confederation , Kaspar Villiger, on the occasion of Switzerland's admission to the United Nations
- 13.09.2002: Speech by Federal Councillor Joseph Deiss to the 57th Session of the UN General Assembly: general debate
- 16.09.2002: High-level plenary session of the General Assembly to examine how the New Partnership for African Development should be supported: *Statement by Federal Councillor Joseph Deiss, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*
- 07.10.2002: Follow-up on the results of the Millennium Summit: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C. A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York (item 44 on the agenda)*
- 31.10.2002: Strengthening the United Nations system: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C. A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York (item 52 on the agenda)*
- 19.11.2002: Support for anti-landmine programmes: *Statement by Marc-Alain Stritt, military advisor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 28 on the agenda)*
- 25.11.2002: Improving co-ordination of humanitarian aid: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York (item 21 on the agenda)*
- 02.12.2002: The situation in the Near East: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York (item 36 on the agenda)*

General Assembly – 1st commission:

- 02.10.2002: *Statement by Ambassador Christian Faessler, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Disarmament Conference (general debate)*
- 16.10.2002: Conventional weapons: *Statement by Ambassador Christian Faessler, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Disarmament Conference*

General Assembly – 2nd commission:

- 03.10.2002: Macroeconomic issues: *Statement by Olivier Chave, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (items 84 b, d, e, f on the agenda)*
- 16.10.2002: Issues of macroeconomic policy: *Science and technology for development: Statement by Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 84 c on the agenda)*
- 21.10.2002: Environment and sustainable development: *Statement by Stefano Toscano, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (items 87 b, c, d, e, f on the agenda)*
- 21.10.2002: Environment and sustainable development – climate: *Statement by Ambassador Beat Nobs, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (item 87c on the agenda)*
- 28.10.2002: Operational development activities: *Statement by Olivier Chave, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 88 on the agenda)*
- 04.11.2002: 3rd United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries: *Statement by Olivier Chave, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 96: 3 e on the agenda)*
- 07.11.2002: Education and research: *Statement by Ariane Waldvogel, Permanent*

Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 90 on the agenda)

- 08.11.2002: International high-level meeting to examine the issue of development financing: *Statement by Olivier Chave, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 93 on the agenda)*
- 14.11.2002: Environment and sustainable development – climate: *Statement by Ambassador Beat Nobs, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (item 87 a on the agenda)*
- 14.11.2002: Issues in sector policies – business development: *Statement by Olivier Chave, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 85 b on the agenda)*
- 15.11.2002: Sustainable development and international economic co-operation – International Year of Mountains: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 86, header on the agenda)*

General Assembly – 3rd Commission:

- 14.10.2002: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child: *Statement by Rachel Groux, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (items 105 and 43 on the agenda)*
- 30.10.2002: Draft of an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 109 a on the agenda)*
- 07.11.2002: Human Rights issues: *Statement by Rachel Groux, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 109 b on the agenda)*

General Assembly – 4th Commission:

- 30.10.2002: Issues in connection with information: *Statement by Pierre Helg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 79 on the agenda)*
- 04.11.2002: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East (UNRWA): *Statement by Pierre Helg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 76 on the agenda)*

General Assembly – 5th Commission:

- 25.10.2002: Improving the financial position of the United Nations: *Statement by Julius Anderegg, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 114 on the agenda)*
- 29.10.2002: Programme budget for 2002–2003 – Capital Master Plan: *Statement by Julius Anderegg, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 112 on the agenda)*

General Assembly – 6th Commission:

- 23.09.2002: International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings: *Statement by Claude-Georges Ducret, head of the "Swiss presence in international organisations" section, Political Affairs Division III of the DFA (item 162 on the agenda)*
- 02.10.2002: Status of ratification of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts: *Statement by Valentin Zellweger, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 152 on the agenda)*
- 14.10.2002: Establishment of the International Criminal Court: *Statement by Valentin Zellweger, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations (item 158 on the agenda)*
- 28.10.2002: Report by the Commission for International Law – diplomatic protection: *Statement by Ambassador Nicolas Michel, legal advisor, Director of the Directorate of International Law, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (item 156 on the agenda)*
- 04.11.2002: Report by the Commission for International Law (chapters IV, VII, VIII and IX of the report): *Statement by Jürg Lindenmann, Deputy Legal Advisor, Directorate of International Law, Federal Department*

of Foreign Affairs (item 156 on the agenda)

Security Council:

- 11.10.2002: Small arms: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations*
- 17.10.2002: Situation between Iraq and Kuwait: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations*
- 10.12.2002: Protection of the civilian population during armed conflicts: *Statement by Pierre Helg, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations*
- 14.01.2003: Children in armed conflicts: *Statement by Ambassador Jenö C.A. Staehelin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations*

The Building Foundation for International Organisations (FIPOI) in figures²⁷

1. Government bonds

(A) Redeemable government bonds (as of 31 Dec. 2002)

Used for financing the construction of buildings for international organisations

Properties	Amount
Properties owned by FIPOI:	73,561,900
– Car park, Place des Nations	10,563,300
– International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)/commitment	62,998,600
Buildings owned by international organisations:	323,053,489
– World Meteorological Organisation (WMO): headquarters (1995)	69,633,800
– International Labour Organisation (ILO): headquarters (1975)	85,152,610
– International Telecommunication Union (ITU): expansion of headquarters (1975)	1,837,400
– International Telecommunication Union (ITU): expansion of headquarters (1986)	16,383,800
– International Telecommunication Union (ITU): expansion of headquarters (1996)	44,518,750
– World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO): headquarters	30,769,745
– World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO): renovation (1987)	6,465,630
– International Organisation for Migration (IOM): headquarters (1983)	11,426,628
– European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN): administration building (1984)	6,943,220
– European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN): physics building (1993)	30,111,115
– International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC): headquarters (1994)	10,219,291
– International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): Ecogia Training Centre, Versoix (2000)	9,591,500
Total redeemable bonds as of 31 December 2002	396,615,389

(B) Redeemed government bonds (examples, as of 31 Dec. 2002)

Used for financing the construction of buildings for international organisations:

Organisation	Bond value	Date	Last repayment
World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)	6,500,000	19.12.1967	1999
European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)	48,700,000	30.05.1973	1995
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	21,000,000	19.12.1967	1999

(C) In 2002 the federal government paid FIPOI a total of SFr. 6,500,000 for bonds (interest-free, redeemable in 50 years) in favour of international organisations in Geneva:

- SFr. 1,500,000 for studies carried out by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- SFr. 5,000,000 for the construction of the new headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

(D) In turn, international organisations and FIPOI repaid the federal government a total of SFr. 10,030,300 in 2002 as amortisation on building loans.

²⁷ All amounts are in Swiss francs.

2. Non-repayable financial assistance from the federal government to FIPOI

In 2002, the federal government contributed a total of **SFr. 6,581,900** to FIPOI for the operation, maintenance and renovation of its properties:

- *SFr. 5,141,000* to cover the deficit for the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) which is available to international organisations and NGOs free of charge
- *SFr. 500,000* for the operation and maintenance of the William Rappard conference hall at the headquarters of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- *SFr. 940,900* for the operation of the William Rappard Centre at the headquarters of the WTO

3. Assets of the FIPOI

As of 31 December 2001 the value of the foundation's real estate holdings according to fire insurance coverage was *SFr. 549,000,000*.

Land with building rights, placed at its disposal free of charge by Canton Geneva, has an estimated value of *SFr. 210 million*. FIPOI's reserves amounted to *SFr. 52,400,000* on 31 December 2001. These funds are for the periodical renovation of properties.

4. Investments of the FIPOI

In 2002 the FIPOI renovated buildings for a total of some *SFr. 7,000,000*.

In addition, it spent approximately *SFr. 5,000,000* for the construction of the "Balexert" Administration Building (BAB) (extension of the International Environment House, IEH). The overall costs (including land, construction and financing) are expected to be about *SFr. 26,000,000* (6,500 m² of office space and a conference centre).

5. Conference activities

Some 25,540 participants attended international conferences and congresses at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) in 2002. A total of 36 conferences were attended by 200 to 500 participants, 11 by more than 500 and at one conference there were more than 1,000. It resulted in 64,000 overnight stays by CICG guests in the course of the year.

6. Personnel

The FIPOI had 38 employees at the end of 2002.

7. Finances

A summary of FIPOI activities during the 2001/02 fiscal year shows the following figures (excluding investments, details of which are shown in section 4 above):

Activity	Expenditure in 2001	Budget for 2002
Conferences	5,800,000	6,000,000
Buildings (<i>maintenance and upkeep</i>)	6,000,000	5,800,000
Property management	10,300,000	10,300,000

Geneva International in figures

Source: Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva (<http://www.dfae.admin.ch/geneve>)

International organisations

- *International organisations in Switzerland* (with headquarter agreements), 23
20 of which are based in *Geneva*.
- *Office of the United Nations at Geneva (ONUG)*²⁸, comprising a secretariat 1
and various UN bodies:
 - Organisations with *headquarters* in Geneva: ECE-UNO, ITC (UNCTAD/WTO), UNCC, UNCTAD, UNHCR, HCHR, UNIDIR, UNRISD, UNITAR, etc.
 - Organisations with *regional offices for Europe* in Geneva: OCHA (New York), UNCHS (HABITAT) (Nairobi), UNDP (New York), UNEP (Nairobi), UNICEF (New York), etc.
 - Organisations with *affiliated offices* in Geneva: UNFPA (New York), WFP (Rome), UNV (Bonn), etc.
- *Special cases*:
 - The Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva is not an organisation of the United Nations but an autonomous body that receives support from the UN. Its secretariat is managed by the Disarmament Division of the UN (office in Geneva).
 - The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was established in Geneva in 1996 and receives support from the World Bank, the UNFPA, the ILO (2001), the WTO, the UNDCP (1999), the UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF.
- *Specialized agencies within the UN system*: IBE/UNESCO, ILO, WMO, 7
WIPO, WHO, ITU and UPU (Berne).
 - Specialized agencies with headquarters outside Switzerland but with an *affiliated office* in Geneva: FAO (Rome), IMF (Washington), UNIDO (Vienna) and UNESCO (Paris).
- *International organisations outside the UN*: ACWL, EFTA, ITC, BIS 15
(Basel), CERN, ICRC, Court of the OSCE, SC, IFRC, IOM, ICDO, WTO, OTIF (Berne), IPU and UPOV.
- *Intergovernmental non-governmental organisations, primarily with 5
headquarters in Switzerland (with taxation agreements)*: ACI, IATA and ISAT (Geneva), WADA (European office in Lausanne, headquarters in Montreux) and IUCN (Gland, Canton Vaud).

Foreign countries, diplomatic missions, permanent representatives and delegations

- Foreign countries represented by a mission or other body to the UNOG, WTO 149
or CD in Geneva²⁹
- Permanent missions to the UNOG (and other international organisations)³⁰ 150
- Separate permanent missions to the WTO³¹ 21
- Separate permanent missions to the CD³² 16

²⁸ Although the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA) in Vienna also has an office in Geneva and was formed under the patronage of the UN, it is not one of the specialized agencies of the UN. Following the accessions of Switzerland on 10 September 2002 and the Republic of East Timor on 27 September 2002, the UN now has 191 member states, 149 of which (including Switzerland) are represented in Geneva.

²⁹ All these countries have a mission to the UNOG and other international organisations in Geneva, and some also have a separate mission or agency at the WTO and/or the CD.

³⁰ The Vatican has an observer mission to the UNOG.

³¹ 21 member states of the World Trade Organisation have a separate mission to the WTO: Australia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the USA, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Pakistan, Switzerland, Taiwan's special customs territories of Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, Thailand and Turkey.

³² 16 member states of the Conference on Disarmament have a *separate representative to the CD*: Germany, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, the USA, the Russian Federation, Finland, France, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

– Special missions ³³	10
– Permanent delegations of international organisations (observer offices) ³⁴	9
– Other institutions (with observer status at the UNOG) ³⁵	2
Total	208

– Permanent missions to the UNOG (and other international organisations) with headquarters outside Geneva (<i>abroad</i>) ³⁶	6
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Host country representation

- Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva
 - Multilateral department
 - Permanent representative of Switzerland to the CD
 - Host country section
- Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (ECE-UNO, UNCTAD, ITC)

Special missions (10)

- Delegation of the Russian Federation to the Special Verification Commission (SVC)
- Delegation of the United States of America to the Special Verification Commission (SVC)
- Delegation of Ukraine to the Special Verification Commission (SVC)
- Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the Joint Commission for Respect and Inspections (CCRI)
- Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Joint Commission for Respect and Inspections (CCRI)
- Delegation of the Russian Federation to the Joint Commission for Respect and Inspections (CCRI)
- Delegation of the United States of America to the Joint Commission for Respect and Inspections (CCRI)
- Delegation of Ukraine to the Joint Commission for Respect and Inspections (CCRI)
- Delegation of the Russian Federation to the Standing Advisory Committee
- Delegation of the United States of America to the Standing Advisory Committee

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

NGOs with *advisor status* at the UN:

NGOs with offices in Geneva (head office or representative)	ca. 170
NGOs with offices elsewhere in Switzerland	ca. 60
Total NGOs in Switzerland	ca. 230

³³ *Special missions*: cf. list on page 44.

³⁴ *Permanent delegations of international organisations* (observer offices): World Bank, AKP Group, LAS, OAT, OCI, OIF, AU and EU. The latter is represented in Geneva by the permanent delegation of the European Commission and by the affiliated office of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union. These delegations represent their respective organisations to the UNOG and/or the WTO, and in some cases to other international organisations.

³⁵ *Other institutions (observers)*: Palestinian Authority and G15. The Order of Malta also has observer status at the UNOG.

³⁶ *Permanent missions to the UNOG with headquarters outside Geneva (abroad)*: Antigua and Barbuda (London), Dominican Republic (London), Equatorial Guinea (Paris), Guinea-Bissau (Brussels), Nigeria (Brussels) and Togo (Paris).

Meetings, delegates and official visits (approximate figures)

2000 ³⁷	International organisations in Geneva	International organisations in Switzerland (incl. Geneva)	NGOs in Geneva
Annual meetings and conferences	2,055	2,190	1,500
Half-day meetings and conferences	17,170	17,579	3,312
Delegates/experts attending meetings and conferences	89,000	94,165	22,000
Visits by heads of state/government leaders, ministers and other officials (VIPs) in Geneva per annum ³⁸			3,000

Financial details (in Swiss francs)³⁹

- Expenditures in 2000 by international organisations with headquarters in Geneva 3.991 billion
- Expenditures in 2000 by international organisations domiciled in Switzerland 4.253 billion
 - of which 2.4 billion in the form of salaries for employees residing in Switzerland, or as payments for goods and services provided by companies domiciled in Switzerland

Employment and the international community (approximate figures)

- Job positions in international organisations (IO) in Switzerland⁴⁰ 25,000
- International officials in Switzerland holding a permit issued by the Swiss Mission 17,900
- Job positions in international organisations (IO) in Geneva⁴¹ 23,000
- International officials in Geneva holding a permit issued by the Swiss Mission 17,100
- Staff at the permanent missions (PM) in Geneva, including observer offices 3,800
- Members of the international community in Switzerland (IO/PM) with family members and domestic staff (holders of a permit issued by the Swiss Mission) 33,000
- Job positions in international organisations with a tax agreement with Switzerland (ACI, WADA, IATA, ISAT and IUCN) 900
- Estimated no. of jobs at NGOs in Geneva 2,200
- Estimated no. of jobs associated with “Geneva International”⁴² 14,000

³⁷ Source: “Enquête sur les organisations internationales”, published by the Canton of Geneva Statistics Office (OCSTAT: www.geneve.ch/statistique) (March 2002, data for 2000). Conferences normally last several days, and each meeting lasts for an average of three hours.

³⁸ Example: in 2001 the Director General of the UNOG received more than 190 official visits (UN Secretary-General, heads of state, government leaders, ministers, state secretaries and other dignitaries).

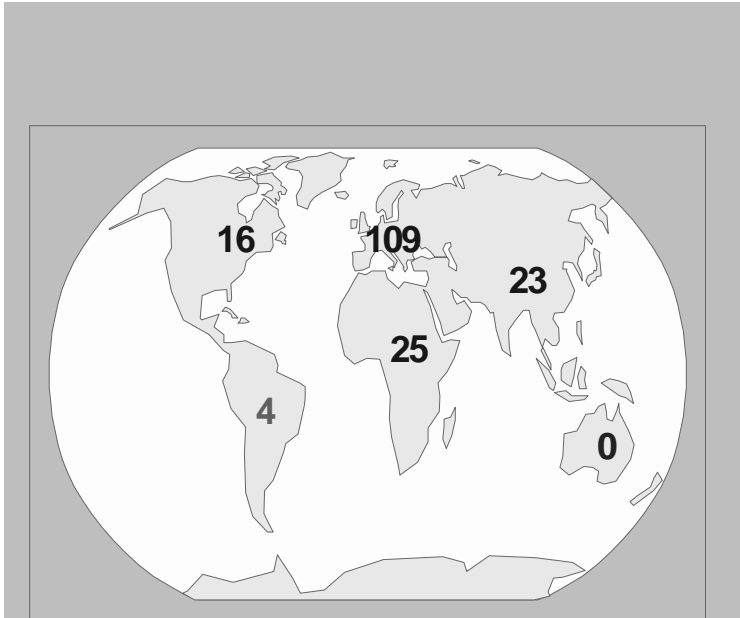
³⁹ Source: “Enquête sur les organisations internationales”, published by the Canton of Geneva Statistics Office (OCSTAT: www.geneve.ch/statistique) (March 2002, data for 2000).

⁴⁰ Source: “Enquête sur les organisations internationales”, published by the Canton of Geneva Statistics Office (OCSTAT: www.geneve.ch/statistique) (March 2002, data for 2000).

⁴¹ Source: “Enquête sur les organisations internationales”, published by the Canton of Geneva Statistics Office (OCSTAT: www.geneve.ch/statistique) (March 2002, data for 2000).

⁴² These figures include jobs in the private sector that can be attributed to the presence of organisations and missions.

Swiss nationals active within the United Nations system



As of the middle of 2002, approximately 180 Swiss nationals were active within the UN.

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
BAB	“Balexert” Administration Building
BBI	Swiss Federal Gazette
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
BWI	Bretton Woods Institutions
CADONG	The Welcome Centre for Non-Governmental Organisations and Delegations
CAGI	Welcome Centre Geneva International
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CD	Conference on Disarmament
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CERN	European Organisation for Nuclear Research
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CICG	International Conference Centre Geneva
CIVPOL	United Nations International Civilian Police
CND	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
COTIF	Convention Concerning International Carriage by Rail
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSocD	Commission for Social Development
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CTBT	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DDPS	Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports
DFA	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
DHA	UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs
DPKO	UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
ECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EU	European Union
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
FIPOI	Building Foundation for International Organisations [Geneva]
FMCT	Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty
FRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
G77	The Group of 77
G8	Group of the eight leading industrialised nations
GA	General Assembly
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEN	Geneva Environment Network
GF-ATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GS	General Secretariat
GSD	Geneva Police Corps for Diplomatic Security
GSVN	Swiss-United Nations Association
HABITAT	UN Human Settlements Programme
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBE	International Bureau of Education
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICDO	International Civil Defence Organisation
ICJ	International Court of Justice

ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IDA	International Development Agency
IDP	Internally displaced persons
IEH	International Environment House
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILC	International Law Commission
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPA	International Peace Academy
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ISAT	International Society for Aeronautics Telecommunications
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; The World Conservation Union
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NNSC	Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [Korea]
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIF	Intergovernmental Organisation of French-speaking countries
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OTIF	Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail
PIC	Procedure governing prior approval after advance notification of certain dangerous chemicals and pesticides in international trade
POPs	Persistent organic pollutants
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation
SFAO	Federal Audit Office
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCDF	UN Capital Development Fund
UNCHS	UN Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS-Habitat)
UNCITRAL	UN Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	UN Drug Control Program
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	UN Framework Climate Change Convention
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCHR	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund; (formerly UN International Children's Emergency Fund)
UNIDIR	UN Institute for Disarmament Research
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organisation
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
UNMAS	UN Mine Action Service
UNMOVIC	UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission
UNODCCP	UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

UNOG	UN Office at Geneva
UNOMIG	UN Observer Mission in Georgia
UNRISD	UN Research Institute for Social Development
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Middle East
UNSAS	UN Stand-by Arrangements System
UNSCOM	UN Special Commission [for Iraq]
UNSG	UN Secretary General
UPU	Universal Postal Union
USD	US dollar
VIP	Very Important Person
WEOG	West European and Others Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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