2017 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

Background information on programmes and funds

Contents

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ........................................4

2. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples ..............................................................4

3. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture .............................................................5

4. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery .............................6


Office of the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

6. Trust Fund in support of the Activities of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States ........................................................................................................7

7. Trust Fund for the support of activities related to the Preparation and Organization of the International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation and to its follow-up .........................................................................................................8

Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation

8. Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation .........................................................8

United Nations Capital Development Fund


United Nations Children’s Fund

10. United Nations Children’s Fund .........................................................................................10

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Secretariat

11. Trust Fund for UNCITRAL Symposia .....................................................................................11

12. Trust Fund for Granting Travel Assistance to Developing States Members of UNCITRAL ....12

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

14. United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing

15. United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities

16. United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability

17. Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues

18. United Nations Youth Fund

United Nations Department of Legal Affairs

19. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

20. Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States in the meetings of the Commission

21. Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

22. Voluntary trust fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

23. Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

24. Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee and the intergovernmental conference on the development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

25. Voluntary trust fund for the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

26. Voluntary Trust Fund for the purposes of the development and maintenance of an online searchable database for an inventory of the mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of the participating organizations of UN-Oceans
United Nations Development Programme

27. United Nations Development Programme .................................................. 18

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

28. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ............. 19

United Nations Environment Programme

29. Environment Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme .......................... 20

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

30. United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation ................................ 20

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

31. Trust Fund for Disaster Relief Assistance .................................................. 21
32. Central Emergency Response Fund ....................................................... 22

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

33. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ................................................ 22
34. Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme .......................... 23
36. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children ................................................................. 25

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

37. United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation ....................................... 25

United Nations Population Fund


United Nations Research and Training Institutes

39. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ....................... 26
40. United Nations Institute for Training and Research ..................................... 27

United Nations Volunteers

41. United Nations Volunteers ............................................................................ 28
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) depends on funding from the United Nations regular budget and a steady flow of voluntary contributions from Member States and other donors in order to meet its financial needs. Although human rights is recognized as one of the three pillars of the United Nations — alongside and contributing to peace and security and development — the United Nations human rights programme receives just 3.5 per cent of the Organization’s regular budget, which covers only some 40 per cent of its total needs. In the absence of further growth in funding from the regular budget, the Office must rely on donors to provide the additional resources needed to ensure the implementation of its programme of work.

2. In 2016, a total of US$129.6 million in extra-budgetary contributions was received, representing an increase of 3 per cent compared to the previous year (US$125.8 million). With expenditures amounting to US$122.3 million under extra-budgetary resources, OHCHR recorded less expenditure than income for the first time since 2010. This was primarily due to a UN system-wide change in accounting policy following the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and as a result of a concerted effort undertaken by the Office to control expenditures through systematic monitoring during the year. There is no room for complacency as the unmet needs are enormous.

3. All efforts continue to be made to adapt the work of OHCHR to the resources it has at its disposal, while evermore demands and new mandates continue to be imposed on the Office by the international community. In 2016, the final extra-budgetary requirements amounted to US$158.6 million. If OHCHR were to adequately respond to all of the requests it receives, it would require a budget of at least US$250 million every year in voluntary contributions. Consequently, OHCHR launched an Annual Appeal for 2017 for approximately US$253 million. OHCHR redoubles its efforts to secure additional revenue from voluntary contributions, while also strongly advocating for an increase of the regular budget to fully cover its existing mandated activities that are being subsidized by extra-budgetary resources.

4. Funding projections so far indicate that the level of voluntary contributions is unlikely to increase substantially in 2017. Some US$130 to 135 million are expected against extra-budgetary needs of approximately US$253 million. As of 30 June 2017, donors had provided or pledged US$62.7 million. The High Commissioner appeals to all Member States and to the wider donor community to make available the additional funding required, if possible un-earmarked, to enable OHCHR to maintain its global programme and carry out its activities during the course of 2017 and 2018.

1. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

1. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples was established in 1985 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131, to provide indigenous peoples with the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities in UN meetings. The Fund currently provides support to indigenous peoples’ representatives to participate in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in the sessions of the Human Rights Council, including its Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and of human rights treaty bodies. The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees, which is currently composed of the following indigenous experts: Ms. Claire Charters (New Zealand), Ms. Mirna Cunningham (Nicaragua), Mr. Binota Dhamai (Bangladesh), Ms. Anne Nuorgam (Finland) and Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara (Nigeria). Over the years, the Fund has enabled approximately 2,000 indigenous peoples’ representatives to participate in UN processes and mechanisms, thereby contributing towards
ensuring that the voices and concerns of indigenous peoples are heard at the UN and contributing to increased international awareness of the rights, status, and conditions of indigenous peoples worldwide. The Fund also employs resources to increase the capacity of indigenous peoples and to enhance their effective participation in such meetings.

2. The Fund is funded only by means of voluntary contributions. Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. The Board has noted that the successive expansions of the mandate of the Fund coupled with a significant increase in the number of requests from indigenous peoples to participate in the sessions of the human rights mechanisms and other international conferences or consultations places an additional strain on its capacity to fulfil its mandate. Without robust, predictable and sustainable contributions to the Fund, the Board of Trustees will face difficulties carrying out its mandate and responding to these ever growing demands.

3. Information about how to contribute can be obtained from: The Secretariat of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Tel. +41 (0) 41 22 917 9184; E-mail: indigenousfunds@ohchr.org; Website: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/IPeoplesFund/Pages/IPeoplesFundIndex.aspx.

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2. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

1. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established by the General Assembly through its resolution 36/151 in 1981, to distribute aid to victims of torture and their relatives, through established channels of assistance, in particular rehabilitation centres, NGOs, hospitals, lawyers’ group, etc.. The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the advice of a Board of Trustees. Over the last three decades, the Fund has channelled financial assistance for over US $168 million to more than 620 organisations worldwide, providing medical, psychological, humanitarian, social and legal assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. In 2016 alone, with the critical support of the Fund, over 47,000 victims in 81 countries are expected to be assisted by specialised practitioners from rehabilitation centres, non-governmental organizations and legal aid groups.

2. The support to victims cannot continue without Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private and public entities continuing to contribute to the Fund. Contributing to the Fund is a concrete translation of the commitment of States to the elimination of torture. The Fund, by awarding rehabilitation projects, plays a key role in supporting the effective realisation of the right to redress, in particular rehabilitation, in many countries in the world.

3. The UN Fund for Victims of Torture is the oldest and largest humanitarian trust fund managed by OHCHR with a unique humanitarian and victim-focused mandate. In 2016, the Fund celebrates its thirty-fifth anniversary, which provides for a timely opportunity to: i) commemorate the Fund’s accomplishments to date, ii) increase awareness of the on-going threat of torture and the unaddressed needs of thousands of victims, including women and children, and iii) urge for renewed support in the form of voluntary contributions.

4. Additional information on how to contribute can be obtained from: The Secretariat of the Fund at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Tel. +41 (0) 22 9179624; Fax +41 (0) 22 9179008; E-mail: unvft@ohchr.org; Website: http://www.ohchr.org/torturefund.
3. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

1. The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established in 1991 by General Assembly resolution 46/122. The Fund provides financial assistance to grassroots organizations and NGOs working to address problems associated with contemporary forms of slavery as well as providing aid to victims of contemporary forms of slavery.

2. The distinctive value of the Fund is its ability to provide concrete assistance to the victims of contemporary forms of slavery including housing, legal aid, psycho-social support, food, medical care and sustainable sources of incomes. Detailed information on these various types of assistance, as well as their impact on victims, can be found on the website of the Fund: http://www.ohchr.org/slaveryfund. In particular, the brochure “The human faces of modern slavery” collects telling accounts of victims of modern slavery assisted with the support of the Fund in recent years. This visual tool conveys their resilience and their long path towards rehabilitation and regaining their dignity.

3. This Fund has been on a critically low funding level for several years. The Board of Trustees re-emphasized its concern over the insufficient level of contributions received and reiterated that the Fund needs a minimum US$ 2 million on a yearly basis in order to meaningfully fulfil its mandate in support of victims.

4. To enhance the Fund’s relevance and impact, a new Mission Statement was adopted in 2015 to guide the work of the Fund in 2016-2019. Accordingly, the Fund will prioritize projects providing specialized assistance to victims; give preference to project applications which propose activities spanning over a number of years to ensure continuity and greater impact; prioritize women and children, in particular in situations of conflict and humanitarian crises; provide for larger grants (ranging from US$ 20,000 to US$ 30,000); and contribute to meeting Sustainable Development Goal # 8.7, which intends to take “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking.”

5. Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. Information on how to contribute can be obtained from: The Secretariat of the Fund at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; Tel. +41 (0) 22 9179376; Fax +41 (0) 22 9179008; E-mail: slaveryfund@ohchr.org; Website: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Slavery/Pages/SlaveryFundMain.aspx

4. Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture

1. The Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture was established pursuant to article 26 of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT) to support projects implementing recommendations of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) made during the country visits. Eligible entities include State parties to the OPCAT which have agreed to the publication of the SPT report and their National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs); NPMs that have agreed to the publication of the SPT report addressed to them; and National Human Rights Institutions or Non-governmental organizations in collaboration with an entity responsible for implementation of the public SPT report.

2. The Special Fund is the only operational Fund established by an international human rights treaty. Since its first call for applications in 2012, the Special Fund has supported 36 projects in 11 countries.
worldwide. These projects resulted in legislative changes, such as bringing respective laws into line with international human rights standards on torture prevention (including revised codes of criminal procedure, prison acts, and laws prohibiting abusive body searches for persons deprived of their liberty), as well as laws seeking to establish national preventive mechanisms on torture (NPMs); institutional changes, such as establishing or strengthening the effective functioning of NPMs or other relevant institutions; establishment of registers of detainees; operational changes resulting from enhanced knowledge and skills of the judiciary, law enforcement and medical personnel; as well as changes in people’s lives, including, a reported decrease of violence against children in detention facilities. Projects also contributed to increased awareness of persons deprived of their liberty about their rights through development and dissemination of manuals, including in local and minority languages. Through its projects, the Fund has engaged with several national entities, including ministries of the interior and justice, ombudsman institutions, hospitals and prisons, the police and civil society actors. The projects addressed real gaps and needs in torture prevention, identified by SPT on the ground, and were instrumental in implementing the SPT’s recommendations.

3. Under the 2017 call for applications, total of 37 applications were received for projects to be implemented in twelve eligible countries (more than 100% increase comparing to 19 projects in 2016). Eleven applications approved for grants in nine countries would amount to US$ 273,096.

4. In 2016, the Special Fund received contributions of US$ 278,782. An increased level of contributions is required to sustain and consolidate the Special Fund as a viable and unique implementation tool in the torture prevention system of the United Nations. It is estimated that minimum annual contributions of some $500,000 would be required in order to meet the Special Fund’s objective of supporting an average of 10-15 projects per year with a reasonable level of funding per project (for example, $25,000), taking into account increase of eligible countries and project applications.

5. Detailed information on the work of the Special Fund is available in the report by the Secretary-General, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its 34th Session (A/HRC/34/16) and at the following address: http://www.ohchr.org/opcatfund. Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities are encouraged to contact the Secretariat of the Special Fund at the following address: OPCAT Special Fund Secretariat, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR, Human Rights Treaties Division, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 9600 Email: opcatfund@ohchr.org

5. **Trust fund in support of the activities of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

1. The Trust Fund was established in connection with the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/227, requested the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions for the Office. Assembly resolution 57/276 welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund to support the activities of OHRLLS. The main purpose of the Trust Fund is to support the implementation of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries with a special focus on the participation of representatives from least developed countries (LDCs) in United Nations meetings.

2. The resources made available to OHRLLS through the Trust Fund have been crucial to support and enhance the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country, regional and global
levels. Activities focused on awareness raising and advocacy, addressing LDC and donor country policy makers, civil society, national assemblies and private sector. The main objective of these activities was to foster effective implementation of the Programme’s commitments by all stakeholders with a view to achieving the overarching goal of the Programme to see half of the LDCs meeting the graduation criteria by 2020. In line with this, the activities funded by the Trust Fund have supported strengthening the voice of LDCs in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development and Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

3. The funds were raised for the follow-up and mainstreaming of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including holding of its midterm review. The Trust Fund will continue to support the organisation of annual workshops for national focal points, as mandated by ECOSOC and General Assembly resolutions to allow an exchange of experience among the focal points and facilitate their participation in the review of the IPoA at ECOSOC.

6. Trust Fund for the Support of Activities related to the Preparation and Organization of the International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation and to its follow-up

1. The Trust Fund was established in support of activities related to the preparation and organization of the International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation and to its follow-up, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/180. The resources made available through the Trust Fund have been very helpful in financing activities related to landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) that are not funded by the regular budget of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, but are part of its approved programme of work.

2. Contributions to the Trust Fund were particularly crucial in 2013 and 2014 in supporting the preparatory process for the comprehensive 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action or Second United Nations Conference on the LLDCs that was held from 3 to 5 November 2014 in Vienna, Austria, as called for in General Assembly resolution 68/270. The Conference adopted the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the decade 2014-2024 (VPoA). Resources for 2016 and 2016 were important in supporting activities related to the implementation of the VPoA.

3. Additional extra-budgetary contributions are needed to support additional follow-up activities in connection with the implementation and monitoring of the VPoA.

7. Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation

1. The Trust Fund provides financial support for small-scale projects of a cooperative nature carried out among developing countries that are members of the Group of 77. Preference is given to projects with the largest country coverage, interregional or regional projects, to be implemented utilizing the modalities of technical cooperation among developing countries. Eligible areas are the priorities set out in the Caracas Programme of Action on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (adopted in 1981 at the High-level Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries), namely trade, food and agriculture, energy, industrialization, raw materials, finance, technology, and technical cooperation.
among developing countries, as well as those set out in the Havana Programme of Action (adopted in 2000 at the first South Summit) in the area of South-South cooperation. A committee of experts comprising six elected members from the three regions of the Group of 77, acting in their personal capacity, appraises and recommends a group of proposals to be supported by the Trust Fund. Based on their recommendations, projects are approved by the annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held in New York at the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly.

2. Since the launching of its operations in 1986, 291 projects have been supported by the Trust Fund and US$13.7 million has been allocated to that end. A breakdown of the support by area is as follows: consulting services, training and other activities related to technical cooperation among developing countries, 29 per cent; food and agriculture, 27 per cent; trade, 13 per cent; technology, 8 per cent; information exchange and dissemination, 6 per cent; energy, 6 per cent; and other (industrialization, health, raw materials and finance), 11 per cent. To date, 127 developing countries have been direct participants in or beneficiaries of Trust Fund-supported projects, while all developing countries have benefited collectively from many interregional projects. Detailed and up-to-date information on the Trust Fund can be found on the website of the Group of 77 (www.g77.org).

3. The Trust Fund has core capital in the amount of US$7 million. The initial capital amount of $5 million was allocated following the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund in 1983, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/201. The core capital was increased in 2004 and again in 2015 to US$7 million because of two US$1 million contributions received from countries members of the Group of 77. The Trust Fund’s capital cannot be used to support projects, and only interest earned and voluntary annual contributions are utilised for project activities.

4. The administration of the Trust Fund’s resources is highly conservative. Accounting and the administration of monies, including disbursements and administrative follow-up, are carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in accordance with established rules and procedures. To make the Trust Fund more relevant to developing countries’ needs, it is necessary to expand its core resources approximately twofold and additional resources are being sought to that end.

8. United Nations Capital Development Fund

1. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is UN’s capital investment agency for the world’s 47 least developed countries. Established by the General Assembly in 1966, with headquarters in New York, UNCDF is an autonomous United Nations organization, affiliated with UNDP.

2. UNCDF offers “last mile” finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF’s financing models work through two channels: financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives; and by showing how localized investments -- through fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance -- can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development. Using grants, soft loans, targeted credit enhancements, and innovative business and public-private partnerships, UNCDF tests financing models to show how strategically placed Official Development Assistance can drive domestic resource mobilization for local economic development and financial inclusion. UNCDF’s innovations, blended finance approaches, and “last-mile” finance models are strongly relevant for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the Paris agreement on climate change. By strengthening how
finance works for poor people at the household, small enterprise, and local infrastructure levels, UNCDF contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 17 on the means of implementation. By identifying those market segments where innovative financing models can have transformational impact in helping to reach the last mile and address exclusion and inequalities of access, UNCDF contributes to the achievement of a number of different SDGs.

3. In 2016, total UNCDF revenue reached $55.3 million (including UNDP programme support), down from a record income of $58.9 million in 2015. The diversification of UNCDF donors remained high, with 35 development partners (compared to 29 in 2010). Donor contributions from private sector foundations, corporations and non-governmental organizations represented 36 per cent of total income. Contributions to regular resources reached some $10.2 million in 2016 (including $0.8 million from UNDP for programme support), down from $12.5 million in 2015. Despite considerable improvements in donor diversification in recent years, UNCDF continues to be dependent on a limited number of donors for contributions to its regular resources. Regular resources contributions remained well short of the $25 million per year required as a minimum to extend UNCDF operations to 40 of the 47 least developed countries, as envisaged in the UNCDF strategic framework 2014-2017. By the end of 2016, UNCDF was able to maintain programmes – and sometimes with a very thin presence – in only 30 LDCs. Without a reversal in the core, up to 10 of these are at risk of further reduction by the end of 2017. Other resources remained at $45.2 million in 2016, a decrease of 3 per cent from 2015; they have increased steadily over the past 10 years, by 250 per cent since 2006, and are expected to continue to steadily grow in 2017.


1. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is the leading development and humanitarian agency working globally for the rights of child; work that started 70 years ago. With a results-based modus operandi and culture, UNICEF has seen huge progress for children’s rights, as captured in the final report on the child-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The report, however, also demonstrated that unequal opportunities have left millions of children living in poverty. UNICEF’s equity strategy, emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, will be key in achieving the new 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals therein (SDGs). The 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets incorporate goals and targets that are specific to the health and well-being of children, including adolescents. Among these are targets for early childhood development, universal access to education, and protection of girls and boys from violence, abuse and exploitation. More broadly, the new global goals recognize the critical importance of promoting equity in access to child and maternal health care, proper nutrition, safe water, birth registration, quality education and other essentials. For UNICEF, the adoption of the SDGs signaled an opportunity to build on past achievements with an eye towards narrowing persistent gaps in equity over the coming years.

2. With its direct outreach in some 190 countries and territories, UNICEF is the world's leading advocate for children. Each country office carries out UNICEF's mission through a unique programme of cooperation developed with the host government. UNICEF's work is also fully part of other United Nations activities in a country. UNICEF programme priorities that are central to UNICEF’s mission and underpin its Strategic Plan 2014–2017 are: health; HIV/AIDS; nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); education; child protection; and social inclusion; as well as the two cross-cutting areas of humanitarian action and gender equality.

3. UNICEF is supported entirely by voluntary funds. The total revenue to UNICEF decreased from $5,010 million in 2015 to $4,884 million in 2016, which represents a decrease of 3 per cent or $126 million. Unrestricted Regular Resources (RR) amounted to $1,312 million – an increase of 12 per cent compared to 2015. Regular Resources as a proportion of overall revenue amounted to 27 per cent, an increase of 4
percentage points compared to 2015. This is an encouraging sign and hopefully points to an upward trend in coming years. While positive, of concern to UNICEF is the proportion of RR to total revenue, which has been below 50 per cent since 2000. Earmarked Other Resources decreased by 7 per cent or $265 million from $3,836 million in 2015 to $3,571 million in 2016. The total Other Resources – Regular consisted of $1,933 million or 54 per cent share in Other Resources, and $1,639 million or 46 per cent in Other Resources – Emergency. Other Resources thematic funds aligned to the outcome and cross-cutting areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan saw a decrease of 16 per cent to $326 million in 2016. Governments and public sector partners contributed 68 per cent of overall. UNICEF’s private sector partners, including 4.5 million people who are regular pledge donors, rose to the challenge and donated more RR than ever before in 2016.

4. In meeting its Strategic Plan results in support of national priorities and the 2030 Agenda, UNICEF continues to work with partners on critical priority areas to finance this Plan, principally: a) increase flexible and predictable resources, including Regular Resources and thematic funding; b) accelerate partnerships for funding ongoing and new humanitarian crises; and c) broaden and expand the resource partner base.


1. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade. In the years since its establishment, UNCITRAL has become the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. The Commission is composed of 60 Member States, which represent the world’s various geographic regions and its principal economic and legal systems.

2. UNCITRAL provides technical cooperation and assistance aimed at supporting developing countries and countries in transition in the adoption and implementation of the legislative texts prepared by the Commission. The goal is to contribute to the process of national law reform, by facilitating the development of a sound international trade law framework that can promote investment, including foreign investment, and foster sustainable economic growth at country level. UNCITRAL undertakes law reform assessments; provides assistance with the drafting of national legislation to implement uniform legal standards in the commercial field; and organizes workshops, seminars and capacity-building activities at the national and regional level to strengthen national capacities in the application of legislative texts. The activities address government institutions, as well as professional organisations, education and training institutions, and international and regional organizations.

3. The UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific was established in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in January 2012, with the purpose of providing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance and capacity building to States in the Asia Pacific region pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/94 of 9 December 2011. The region is witnessing a growing awareness about the importance of the use of uniform texts in trade law reform as a means to increase legal predictability and to reduce costs in cross-border trade. The growing awareness of the Regional Centre is generating increased demand for its activities, which call for a corresponding increase in available resources. In its resolution 71/135 of 19 December 2016, the General Assembly welcomed the activities of the Regional Centre and noted with satisfaction expressions of interest from other States in hosting regional centres. UNCITRAL looks forward to the establishment of other such centres.
4. The Trust Fund is also a vehicle for a range of other technical cooperation and assistance initiatives, including: Transparency Registry for Investor-State Disputes, providing a global case record database for all investor-State arbitrations conducted pursuant to the new UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency; Participation in the Asia-Pacific Cooperation (APEC) Ease of Doing Business Project; Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT), an online tool to promote uniform interpretation of texts by providing access to decisions and awards from jurisdictions worldwide.

5. The conduct of the above activities, including those of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, depends on the Trust Fund, and thus on the voluntary contributions received each year, since the regular budget of UNCITRAL does not include funds for that purpose. Financial support may be earmarked for specific projects, in particular those for the UNCITRAL regional centres. In the past few years, however, contributions have been insufficient to guarantee the long-term capacity of UNCITRAL to implement comprehensive technical assistance activities that could respond fully to the needs of developing countries. At the same time, the demand for UNCITRAL cooperation has grown dramatically in recent years, prompting the Commission and the General Assembly to make repeated appeals to United Nations Member States to consider supporting this strategic area.

11. Trust Fund for Granting Travel Assistance to Developing States Members of UNCITRAL

1. To ensure that the process of formulating international trade laws and rules is representative of the interests of States members of UNCITRAL, including their differing legal traditions and stages of economic development, it is highly desirable that all Member States have the opportunity to participate in UNCITRAL deliberations and intergovernmental working groups. UNCITRAL recognizes and stresses the importance of participation in its work, on a continuing basis, by experts from developing countries. By operative paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/32, the General Assembly requested the establishment of a trust fund for the Commission to grant travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission. The Trust Fund was established in 1994 to facilitate participation from developing States members of the Commission. Assistance is provided at the request of the country concerned in the form of full or partial payment of a delegate’s travel expenses and standard daily subsistence allowance. Based on the balance available on 30 June 2017, it is expected that fund resources will be fully exhausted within the current year.


1. The NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is the United Nations focal point for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking, or in consultative status, with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As mandated by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, the Branch works to strengthen and enhance dialogue between NGOs and the United Nations (UN) to enable NGOs to participate in the economic and social development activities of the organization. The nature of the support by the Branch includes supporting the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs to facilitate the process of granting consultative status to eligible organizations. This relationship, established at the inception of the UN itself, has evolved into one of increasing importance over the years. Recognizing this, the General Assembly recommended in 1999 that the Branch take active steps to improve the exchange of information through informal networks of country or regionally-based NGOs in consultative status with the ECOSOC, which led to the establishment of the Informal Regional Network of NGOs (UN NGO-IRENE), representing organizations in all regions. This partnership was further strengthened in 2002 by the establishment of a General Voluntary Trust Fund in support of the UN NGO-IRENE (ECOSOC Decision E/2002/225). Today, the sustainability, effectiveness and impact of the work of the UN continue to rely heavily on a strong commitment to partnership among all stakeholders, including NGOs, as embodied in SDG 17.
2. In order to implement its mandated activities, the NGO Branch is in critical need of mobilizing funds to address a number of essential activities that are guided by the objectives of the Trust Fund:

(a) Capacity building and training of NGOs to strengthen their capabilities on both operational and policy issues, including on the internationally agreed goals and the SDGs;

(b) Promotion of coordinated and integrated activities at all levels to generate partnership initiatives, projects and programmes between governments, civil society, the private sector, and the United Nations;

(c) Establishment of a comprehensive database and guidelines on programming civil society inputs into the overall United Nations Proposed Strategic Frameworks, which would help to spearhead partnerships between Member States and relevant national NGOs to implement national development programmes. The database could also serve as a needs assessment tool for monitoring and evaluation of these collaborative efforts;

(d) Organization of national, sub-regional and regional conferences/meetings, together with the UN entities, government and intergovernmental bodies and NGOs, with a view to facilitating and enabling an environment conducive to the development of an active and effective NGO sector; and

(e) Networking and interactive tools to promote better and more efficient means of engaging NGOs globally into the substantive discussions and deliberations of the Council in order to promote real-time feedback from the national to the global level through ICT-based systems, among others.

13. United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing

1. The United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/129 in connection with the preparations for the first World Assembly on Ageing in 1982 and to support its follow up. Following the convening of the second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, the fund provides financial support for actions to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at the national and international levels. The fund also supports DESA technical cooperation initiatives that work with national authorities to build national capacity on ageing issues, including identifying national implementation issues and priorities, assessing national needs and available infrastructure, identifying resources, and producing strategy guidelines to mainstream ageing into national development agendas.

2. In its resolution 69/146, the General Assembly stressed the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this connection encouraged Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request. To enable the Trust Fund to function on a sustainable basis and continue to make important contribution to international cooperation in the area of ageing – in normative, analytical and technical cooperation fields – it is highly desirable to increase the resource base of the Fund, particularly given the international significance of fostering the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action towards the end of its first decade.

14. United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities

1. In its resolution 50/142 of 21 December 1995, the General Assembly renamed the Voluntary Fund for the 1994 International Year of the Family as the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities, and called
for the continuation of its operations. The Trust Fund on Family Activities provides support to research, seminars and projects aiming to promote the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes which continue to form the basis for policies and programmes in support of families. The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/144, encouraged Governments to support the Trust Fund to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request.

2. Support to projects from the Fund are in the form of small grants and support practical action by governments and by non-governmental organizations, with the special focus on least developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Areas of project grant funding include activities of a pilot nature or which form part of larger development initiatives that aim at building national capacities and institutional capabilities for improved livelihood and well-being of families; public information, awareness building and related communications support measures concerned with the situation of families in the context of national development; and training and applied advisory services on emerging issues and trends, assessments of their implications for families, and evaluations of strategies, policies and programmes.

15. United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability

1. The Fund was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/133, in connection with preparations for the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 40/31 that the Fund would be renamed the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), and that its resources would support catalytic and innovative action to implement the goal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: “full participation of persons with disabilities in society and development”.

2. By its resolution 47/88, the General Assembly decided that the Fund would continue in the period beyond the Decade as the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, and that its terms of reference would include support for action to achieve the target of a "Society for all" by the year 2010, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/91.

3. In 2006, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (resolution 61/106). Through General Assembly resolutions 62/127 and 63/150, and decision E/2015/26 of the Economic and Social Council, the scope of the mandate of the Voluntary Fund on Disability and its activities were subsequently expanded to pursue the development goals and objectives of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the pursuit of these goals and objectives within internationally agreed development goals, including promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda.

4. The Fund promotes activities in line with these international instruments and with relevant General Assembly resolutions, such as capacity building and institutional development as principal functions. The Fund provides seed funding for catalytic and innovative action to: (a) strengthen capacity of stakeholders to improve sustainable livelihood and well-being of persons with disabilities in developing countries; (b) build capacity of stakeholders to promote disability-inclusive development; (c) promote greater awareness of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all aspects of economic and social development; (d) promote exchange of knowledge and experience in support of the implementation of the for inclusive and accessible development policies and practice; (e) promote applied research in disability, human rights and development for implementation of the Convention.
5. Special attention is directed to requests for assistance submitted by least developed and related categories of developing countries. More information on the Voluntary Fund on Disability can be found on the following webpage: www.un.org/disabilities.

16. Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues

1. The Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues was established by General Assembly resolution 57/191 to support the work of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). In line with Council resolution E/2000/22, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is mandated to:

(a) Provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council;
(b) Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system; and
(c) Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

2. In addition, the Trust Fund supports activities under the mandate of the Permanent Forum relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

17. United Nations Youth Fund

1. The United Nations Youth Fund was established in 1981 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/126. In accordance with the acknowledgement of the General Assembly that the “United Nations Youth Fund represents a unique resource to support catalytic and innovative action concerning youth”, the Fund through grants help to position youth for more effective participation in national and international development. Supports the design of national youth policies, for the follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), and provides opportunities for youth to be engaged in policy discussion at the national and international levels.

2. The Fund supports the convening of consultative meetings with youth organizations and youth representatives to enhance mechanisms for engaging youth in discussions of the international development issues. The Fund supports the participation of young people in discussions to define the goals and targets for the 15 priority areas of the WPAY.

18. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

1. The Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe (HSA) Fellowship was established by General Assembly resolutions 36/79 and 36/108. The Fellowship is primarily intended for Government officials as well as research fellows or lecturers who are involved in ocean affairs and the law of the sea or related disciplines, either in Government or educational institutions and bodies. The purpose of the Fellowship is to assist selected fellows in acquiring additional knowledge of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Fellowship is managed by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs.

2. As of 2017, 31 fellows from 28 developing countries have completed the HSA Fellowship, of these, 14 are women and 17 men. These professionals are now making important contributions in their respective countries and regions.
3. Due to insufficient funds, no award was made for 2016. In its resolution 71/257 the General Assembly authorized an abbreviated award, on an exceptional basis, for 2017. In the same resolution the General Assembly urged States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary financial contributions in support of the HSA Fellowship so that a regular award may be granted for 2018 and beyond. Currently there are not sufficient funds to grant a regular award in 2018.

19. Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States in the meetings of the Commission

1. This Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/7, para. 20, defrays the cost of participation of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) from developing States in the CLCS meetings by providing travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance. As a result of General Assembly resolution 69/245, of 29 December 2014, the Trust Fund is now authorized to reimburse members of the Commission for travel medical insurance, while they are in New York attending sessions of the CLCS.

20. Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

1. This Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/7, para. 18, provides developing States, in particular the least developed countries and Small Island developing States, with financial assistance for the training of technical and administrative staff, the acquisition of hardware, software and consultancy services, and certain activities necessary to make a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). As a result of General Assembly resolution 70/235, of 23 December 2015, the Trust Fund also provides assistance to developing States to meet the travel and daily subsistence allowance costs associated with meeting with the CLCS when their submissions are being examined and upon the Commission’s invitation.

21. Voluntary trust fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

1. This Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/7, para. 9, assists States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to settle disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea by providing financial assistance for expenses incurred in connection with cases submitted, or to be submitted, to the Tribunal.
22. **Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

1. This Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/7, para. 45, assists developing States, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, to attend the meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which are held annually in New York. Representatives receive roundtrip airfare to New York. The Trust Fund was modified by General Assembly resolution 62/215, para 140, to prioritize assistance for panelists from developing countries who are invited by the co-chairpersons, and provide them with both airfare and daily subsistence allowance.

23. **Voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee and the intergovernmental conference on the development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction**

1. The Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/292, para. 5, assists developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee (the “Preparatory Committee”) and the intergovernmental conference on the development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

24. **Voluntary trust fund for the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

1. The Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/71, para. 183, supports the operations of the Regular Process, provides assistance to the experts from developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, to attend the meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group of the Whole, and serves as a special scholarship fund to support training programmes for developing countries.
25. Voluntary Trust Fund for the purposes of the development and maintenance of an online searchable database for an inventory of the mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of the participating organizations of UN-Oceans

1. The Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/71, para. 183, supports the development and maintenance of an online searchable database for an inventory of the mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of UN-Oceans participating organizations with a view to identifying possible areas of collaboration and synergy, as well as for travel associated with the performance of the functions of the focal point.

26. United Nations Development Programme

1. Fostering collaboration and coherence within the UN development system remains a key priority for the United Nations Development Programme. This is essential for maximizing support for the 2030 Agenda. UNDP provides coordination of the United Nations development system on the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories. UNDP’s coordination role is firmly grounded in operational realities at country level, which provide the organization with the field-based experience, exposure, and oversight central to effective coordination. UNDP’s convening role and multi-dimensional development mandate, makes it a partner of choice to spearhead cooperation with all types of actors towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. With the changing development landscape, and building on UNDP’s core strengths, the organisation remains focused on assisting countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. The cumulative review of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan showed that the vision proved highly relevant, positioning country offices well for SDG implementation support. The review demonstrates that the strategic plan has provided the organization with a dynamic implementation framework that was largely able to accommodate programmatic and institutional recalibrations in response to changing external circumstances and country priorities. In terms of development progress made, UNDP has:

- helped to register 75 million new voters in 40 countries;
- improved livelihoods for 24.7 million people in 119 countries;
- created over two million new jobs in 98 countries;
- helped 94 countries implement measures towards low-emission and climate-resilient development;
- supported 35 countries to develop action plans to address unfinished MDG work and transition to the SDGs;
- assisted 58 countries to put in place 1,239 disaster reduction and adaptation plans at the national and sub-national levels.

3. UNDP is committed to maintaining a high level of performance throughout the current Strategic Plan period and into the next Strategic Plan (2018-2021), building on recent structural reform efforts aimed at:

(a) Higher quality programmes through better project planning, design, monitoring and evaluation, underpinned by stronger results-based management (RBM);
(b) Greater organizational openness, agility and adaptability to harness knowledge, solutions and expertise; and
(c) Improved management of financial and human resources in pursuit of results, in a manner sustainable within projected resource flows.

4. With respect to UNDP’s resource situation, in 2016 contributions to regular resources decreased by 12 per cent to $618 million from $704 million in 2015 due to reduced contributions and foreign exchange losses. In 2016, 52 Member States and 1 non-government partner contributed to regular resources, 2 more than the 51 in 2015. Total contributions (regular and other resources) to UNDP were $4.866 billion (2015: $4.486 billion).

5. Regular resources form the bedrock of UNDP’s funding architecture. The ability of UNDP to deliver on the Strategic Plan depends on a sustainable funding base. Investing in regular resources means investing in systems of accountability, transparency and quality assurance, including oversight functions such as audit, investigation and evaluation. Regular resources enable UNDP to direct its support to the world’s poorest countries (90 per cent of regular programme resources are allocated to low-income countries). Regular resources are critical for the effectiveness and coherence of the UN development system, where UNDP plays a leadership role as manager of the Resident Coordinator system.

6. Restoring levels and enhancing the predictability and sustainability of regular resources funding, are required for UNDP to make significant strides towards ending extreme poverty, reducing inequality and achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Further reductions in funding will constrain UNDP’s ability to ensure global development effectiveness and make forward-looking, strategic choices and investments.

27. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

1. UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established on 2 July 2010 the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289 to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Created to advocate for women’s equal participation in all aspects of life, UN Women supports UN Member States in setting global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to influence and shape laws, policies, programmes and services necessary to uphold these standards. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system’s work in advancing gender equality.

2. The first years of implementation of its strategic plan have provided practical demonstrations of UN-Women’s relevance and impact. The General Assembly’s decision to create an entity that combines normative support, UN coordination and operational activities has been validated. UN-Women has supported Member States in strengthening norms and standards for gender equality and women’s empowerment. It has improved coherence and coordination of the UN system and strengthened accountability for gender equality. With its partners, UN-Women has contributed to translating normative achievements into tangible improvements for women and girls. UN-Women has achieved this while establishing its own institutional structure and in the context of a level of resources significantly below that agreed with its Executive Board in every approved budget to date.

3. With a total of 2,205 staff, of which 80 percent are in the field, UN-Women has activities carried out in over 90 countries including six regional locations. UN-Women also has liaison offices in Abu Dhabi, Brussels, Copenhagen, Geneva and Tokyo.
28. Environment Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. A global, shared responsibility and universal membership call for an increased number of Member States to contribute with higher amounts to UNEP. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and through resolutions 66/288 and 67/213 adopted by the General Assembly, Member States committed “to strengthen the role of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment”. The member states also pledged to provide secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations as well as voluntary contributions which are also needed to achieve the aspirations set by the global community in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which about half of the goals are directly environmental in focus.

2. A strengthened Environment Fund will enable the organization to carry out its work in an efficient, effective and balanced manner that respects the decisions the Governments have jointly made to keep the world’s environment under review and to better support the capacities of the member states to meet their environmental goals and commitments. The Environment Fund is the principal source of funding for UNEP’s Programme of Work, focused on seven priority areas: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency and environment under review. It allows UNEP the flexibility to leverage resources and to enable a well-balanced allocation of funds within UNEP’s Programme of Work, and across national boundaries and emerging environmental issues where they are most needed.

3. The success of UNEP’s work highly depends on the contributions made by Member States. A funding gap of US$67.0 million is estimated for 2017 based on the pledges and payments made to the Environment Fund as at 30 June 2016. Multi-year commitments, increased and adequate resources, and timely payments are therefore extremely critical. The environment has no boundaries – each and every country that donates also benefits from the positive impact of UNEP’s work.

29. United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

1. The mission of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. This mandate took on special significance, when, in 2007, the global population living in cities and towns reached 50 per cent, making urban centres the dominant habitat for humankind with tremendous implications for the current and future dynamics of human development. With projections that this percentage will rise to 66 by 2050, the crucial role of urbanization was further underscored when member states adopted SDG11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable in 2015 as part of the 2030 sustainable agenda. And in 2016, they adopted the new urban agenda at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador where the designated Secretary General of the Conference was the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. This agenda sets out a new global standard on how to plan, manage and live in cities, to help reduce poverty and hunger, promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, improve health and environmental protection, and advance gender equality.

2. At Habitat III, member states underlined the importance of UN-Habitat given its role within the United Nations system as a focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the
implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system. This role includes responsibility for coordinating four yearly reports on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements. UN-Habitat’s role was also acknowledged in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference when governments recognized “…the continuing need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda”.

3. UN-Habitat’s strategic plan, now realigned to take into account 2030 sustainable development agenda and new urban agenda focuses on seven thematic areas; urban planning and design; urban basic services, housing, slum prevention and upgrading; urban legislation, land and governance; urban economy; risk reduction and rehabilitation; and research and capacity development. Planned activities are carried out at the global, regional, national and local levels through UN-Habitat’s extended technical assistance programme collaborating with an extensive network of partners. Funding for the agency’s programmes comes from the regular budget whose level has remained at a constant level of around US$12 million annually while demands for sustainable urbanisation advisory services continue to rise. Its extra budgetary resources comprise the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and Technical Cooperation resources for country level activities. The Foundation has two parts: the general purpose account financed by voluntary non earmarked contributions that have experienced a sharp decline from a high of US$16.7 million to US$2.3 million in 2016, and special purpose account financed by voluntary earmarked contributions which have risen from US$37.5 million in 2010 to a high of US$ 49.1 in 2016 million as a result of strengthened resource mobilization efforts to compensate for the reduction in unearmarked resources. The target is to increase the level of general purpose resources to US$13 million annually and special purpose resources to US$ 50 annually to sustain a viable normative base for its work. To achieve sustainable predictable funding, strategies in place focus on deeper long-term relations and strategic dialogue with development partners, pooled funds and innovative digital marketing strategies.

30. Trust Fund for Disaster Relief Assistance

1. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is mandated by General Assembly resolution 46/182 to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action around the world in support of people affected by crises. In March 2014 a new trust fund was created in OCHA - the Trust Fund for Disaster Relief Assistance (DDN) with the combined objectives of the previously existing Trust Fund for Disaster Relief Assistance (DDA), established in 1971 pursuant to GA resolution 2816 (XXVI) and the Trust Fund for the Strengthening of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (DMA), established in 1974, pursuant to GA resolution 3243.

2. Working in partnership with local, national, regional and international actors, the Office seeks to mobilize and build a humanitarian system that maximizes the use of available resources, expertise and experience. In crisis situations, the Office provides emergency response coordination tools and services to affected governments and the national and international humanitarian community. Coordination tools and services include managing global and country-based pooled funds, support UN Humanitarian Coordinators, coordinate the assessment of needs, and develop common programme priorities and strategies.

3. OCHA delivers its mandate through coordination of international response programmes, policy development and guidance, advocacy, information management, and humanitarian financing activities (CERF and country based pooled funds). Funding for the Office is managed through the Trust Fund for Disaster Relief Assistance and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).
4. OCHA’s extra-budgetary programme budget for 2017 amounts to US$ 261 million, which OCHA must cover from voluntary donor contributions. While the UN Regular Budget contributes US$16 million, OCHA calls on donors to provide $261 million required for the Office to provide essential coordination services in humanitarian operations. In addition, OCHA seeks voluntary contributions to replenish the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds.

31. **Central Emergency Response Fund**

1. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a global humanitarian pooled fund established by General Assembly resolution 60/124 on 15 December 2005. The Fund provides timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies. The Fund is replenished annually through voluntarily contributions from Member States, Observers, regional and local authorities, the private sector and individuals. CERF currently has a grant facility of $450 million and a loan facility of $30 million. As endorsed by the General Assembly, and in order to ensure that CERF is more closely aligned with the growing humanitarian needs, CERF’s grant facility will as of 2018 be increased to $1 billion.

2. Since 2006, the Fund has raised $5 billion for the grant facility. Over the same time period, CERF has disbursed approximately $4.9 billion in CERF funding to enable humanitarian responses in 98 countries and territories. In an average year, CERF supports humanitarian crises in more than 50 countries across the globe. CERF funds address urgent life-saving needs such as food, health care, water and sanitation, protection and shelter activities.

3. Two-thirds of CERF funding goes to rapid responses to sudden-onset emergencies or significant deteriorations in existing crises. The remaining third is allocated through the “underfunded emergencies window” in two rounds each year to programmes in countries with significant gaps between demonstrated needs and available funds. Both windows are designed to complement existing humanitarian planning and financing mechanisms, including Strategic Response Plans and country-based pooled funds. Humanitarian Country Teams in the Republic of Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Ethiopia have received the most CERF funding to date. In 2016, the top three recipients were Iraq, Uganda and the Republic of Sudan. In 2017, CERF has as of end of June allocated $266 million, including $120 million to the countries struck by or at the brink of famine.

32. **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

1. UNODC is committed to achieving health, security and justice for all by tackling threats from illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism worldwide. Security, justice and the rule of law are enablers of sustainable development and outcomes in their own right. As part of the development agenda, peace, rule of law and governance are about ensuring an inclusive approach and building institutions. Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are essential to achieving the SDGs, including the establishment of peaceful societies, promoting the rule of law, eradicating poverty, and respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights. The closely-intertwined issues of illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism help create and sustain illicit economies, threaten regional and global security, and undermine rule of law and development goals.

2. UNODC works directly with governments, international organizations, other UN entities, private sector and civil society groups to develop and implement integrated programmes that assist the countries and regions we work in to meet their international obligations under the drug control treaties, the UN
convention on Transnational Organised Crime and the UN convention against Corruption\(^1\), as well as the international instruments on terrorism prevention. The work of the UNODC covers six interrelated thematic areas:

- Transnational organized crime and trafficking, including drug trafficking and other illicit sectors;
- Countering corruption;
- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform;
- Prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration (for HIV/AIDS and illicit drugs) as well as alternative development and combating wildlife and forest crime;
- Terrorism prevention;

3. UNODC’s mandates are reflected in many SDGs, in particular, SDG 16, with its targets of promoting the rule of law through addressing transnational threats such as organized crime, trafficking, terrorism and corruption. SDG 3 with its emphasis on combatting drug use, dependence and related HIV, SDG 15 on wildlife crime, as well as SDG 11 on safer cities, among others, are also closely related to UNODC’s work.

4. UNODC works under the overall guidance of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the Conference of State parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), the Conference of State parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. For further information on UNODC’s activities, please see UNODC website: http://www.unodc.org

5. The budget of UNODC for the biennium 2016-2017 amounts to US$ 651.1 million, of which 6.9 per cent comes from regular budget funds (contained in sections 16 and 23 of the regular budget for the biennium 2016-2017), and the major portion of the budget, i.e. US$ 606.2 million needs to be mobilized through extra-budgetary (XB) resources, i.e. voluntary donor contributions. The field office network of UNODC is financed exclusively through XB resources and plays a key role in providing technical assistance. Funding of UNODC is channelled through two Trust Fund mechanisms which are administered directly by the Executive Director of UNODC, namely:

33. Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

1. The Fund of UNDCP was established as of 1 January 1992, under the General Assembly resolution 46/185. The budget for 2016-2017 amounts to US$ 291.7 million to be mobilized through voluntary donor contributions, of which US$ 7 million consists of un-earmarked (general purpose) contributions.

2. UNDCP Fund resources are used to finance technical assistance in Africa, Central Asia, Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, South and East Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and global programmes managed from Vienna. Such resources are allocated to the following

areas: suppression of illicit drug trafficking; drug demand reduction; illicit crop monitoring; alternative
development; anti-money laundering; drugs and crime threat and risk analysis (evidence-based research).


1. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund was established pursuant to General
million to be mobilized through voluntary donor contributions, of which US$ 2.6 million consists of un-
earmarked (general purpose) contributions.

2. CPCJF resources are used to finance technical assistance under the UNODC thematic programmes
covering areas such as: counter-terrorism; transnational organised crime (e.g. human trafficking, wildlife
and forest crime, maritime crime, cybercrime); criminal justice reform; corruption and asset recovery.
CCPCJ Fund resources are used to finance technical assistance in Africa, Central Asia, Afghanistan and
neighbouring countries, South and East Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the
Caribbean, and global programmes managed from Vienna.

35. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

1. The UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) was established by General
Assembly resolution 64/293 on 30 July 2010. The Trust Fund’s objective is to provide humanitarian,
legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons through established channels of assistance. The
Trust Fund is overseen by a five-member Board of Trustees appointed by the UN Secretary-General with
due regard to geographical representation, and managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime, which provides technical assistance to the Board of Trustees.

2. The UNVTF provides direct and effective assistance to victims of trafficking in persons worldwide and
aims to assist victims of all types of exploitation related to cross-border trafficking in persons, such as
sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, forced begging, and organ removal. The Trust
Fund facilitates actual, on-the-ground and personalized assistance to victims of trafficking through
specialized civil society organizations.

3. An independent evaluation conducted in 2014 on the management of the UNVTF concluded that the
Fund addresses a clear need for assistance to victims of trafficking in persons and that it has in place an
appropriate and efficient mechanism for disbursement of small grants to specialized NGOs. However, it
noted that the Trust Fund has not been provided with the resources necessary to fulfil its mandate as per
GA resolution.

4. The Board of Trustees noted that the Fund is currently working with the minimum level of resources
required to fulfil its mandate and that UNODC is covering the costs of all UN staff working on the Trust
Fund. The Board estimates that the Fund needs US$1 million on a yearly basis in order to respond
adequately to the most urgent demands for assistance, and for covering the minimum operating costs
required for the purpose of managing the Trust Fund.

5. Governments, non-governmental organizations, individuals, as well as any private or public entity can
contribute to the Fund. Information on how to contribute can be obtained from: The Secretariat of the
UNVTF at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Tel. + (+43-1) 26060-4344; E-mail:
victimsfund@unodc.org; Website: www.unodc.org/humantraffickingfund
36. United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation

1. South-South cooperation is a powerful tool for promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular as developing countries pool their resources and efforts to act globally and multilaterally. Joining forces, countries enable the sharing of knowledge, technology and expertise among a broader spectrum of stakeholders worldwide than individual or bilateral efforts would permit. This collective action leads to scaled-up impact of innovations, tested and proven solutions and sound policy approaches. Acting with the United Nations system in these processes allows for cross-cutting issues to be addressed at the global level for local implementation and delivery through established institutional structures. Cooperating with the United Nations also strengthens multilateral governance processes, building inclusiveness, impartiality and development know-how into South-South activities.

2. To capitalize on these potential benefits and to offer practical operational mechanisms ready for delivery, Member States established the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) (formerly the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation) in 1996 under the management of what is now the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/212 of 22 December 2005, designated the UNFSSC “as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular initiatives”. In its resolution 68/230, the General Assembly invited “all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation”. This call was reiterated in 2016 through the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, A/71/39. Since 1997, the Fund has received contributions from over 60 partners consisting of Member States and international, regional and bilateral organizations.

3. UNFSSC aims to promote, support and implement South-South cooperation. It constitutes a core element of United Nations system support to Member States, enabling them to engage partners, dedicate resources, capitalize on existing global structures, build synergies and incubate initiatives for the joint implementation of innovative and transformative South-South cooperation activities. Partnerships for the mobilization and implementation of activities through UNFSSC are characterized by strong leadership and governance by all stakeholders. UNFSSC provides the framework for implementing projects through various development partners, including United Nations agencies, government bodies and civil society.

4. UNFSSC is an important pillar in the UNOSSC strategy to marshal innovative, South-owned and multi-partner initiatives for scaling up the development impact of South-South and triangular cooperation. The Fund receives support from an important number and range of partners, including Member States and United Nations agencies. Since its establishment, contributions to UNFSSC have totaled about $35 million, provided primarily by United Nations Member States. UNFSSC activities consistently emphasize the design and implementation of initiatives that follow the principles for South-South Cooperation articulated in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Nairobi Outcome Document on South-South Cooperation.

37. United Nations Population Fund

1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

2. UNFPA supports:
   a) Reproductive health care for women and youth in more than 150 countries – home to more than 80 per cent of the world’s population
b) The health of pregnant women, especially the 10-15 million who face life-threatening complications each year
c) Reliable access to modern contraceptives sufficient to benefit 20 million a year
d) Training of thousands of health workers to help ensure at least 80 per cent of all childbirths are supervised by skilled attendants
e) Prevention of gender violence which affects 1 in 3 women annually
f) Abandonment of female genital mutilation which harms 3 million girls
g) Prevention of teen pregnancies, complications of which are a leading cause of death of girls 15-19 years old
h) Efforts to end child marriage, which could affect an estimated 70 million girls over the next 5 years
i) Delivery of safe birth supplies, dignity kits and other life-saving materials to survivors of conflict and natural disaster
j) Censuses, data collection and analyses, which are essential for development planning

3. UNFPA expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives. Since UNFPA started working in 1969, the number – and rate – of women dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth has been halved. Families are smaller and healthier. Young people are more connected and empowered than ever before.

4. But too many are still left behind. Nearly a billion people remain mired in extreme poverty. Sexual and reproductive health problems are a leading cause of death and disability for women in the developing world. Young people bear the highest risks of HIV infection and unintended pregnancy. More than a hundred million girls face the prospect of child marriage and other harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation. Much more needs to be done to ensure a world in which all individuals can exercise their basic human rights, including those that relate to the most intimate and fundamental aspects of life.

5. Few things have a greater impact on the life of a woman than the number and spacing of her children. That’s why international agreements going back decades (ICPD) affirm that individuals should have the right (and the means) to freely decide when (or if) to start a family and how many children to bear. Yet, in this new century, some 225 million women who want to avoid or delay childbearing still lack access to the quality services and supplies needed to manage their fertility.

6. We know how to save almost all women who die giving life. The first step is to ensure they can plan their pregnancies and space their births. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical.

7. Perhaps the most challenging aspect of reducing maternal death and disability is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to post-natal care for newborns, at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

38. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

1. UNICRI was established pursuant to Economic and Social Council Resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 1965 which urged an expansion of the United Nations activities in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Institute is an autonomous institution of the United Nations, governed by its Board of Trustees, who contribute to give strategic direction and setting priorities. The Board reports periodically to the Council through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
2. UNICRI operates as a nimble, rapidly responding, and outcomes based organization that is committed to advancing security, serving justice and building peace in support of the rule of law and sustainable development by addressing the needs of the international community through the formulation and implementation of improved policies in the field of crime prevention and control. With over 50 years of experience, the Institute has structured its activities to be responsive to the needs of Member States, upon their request, by identifying appropriate strategies, policies and instruments to tackle shared threats and challenges in an effort to contribute to socioeconomic development, increased security and the protection of human rights.

3. The statute of the Institute mandates it to implement work through research, field activities, training and education, and knowledge collection and dissemination. Support is provided by UNICRI, upon request, in designing practical models and systems in the field of crime, including justice, security governance, counter-terrorism and social cohesion. Serving as a platform for consultation and cooperation, UNICRI brings together multi-disciplinary partners, including Member States, local governments, international organizations, private entities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to devise a common approach to address shared needs. The Institute supports the design and implementation of holistic and innovative approaches to confront traditional and emerging crime threats, at both national and cross-border levels. UNICRI categorizes the work it carries out under the following four thematic areas:

(a) Security governance and counter-terrorism;
(b) Crime and justice;
(c) Training and advanced education;
(d) Knowledge collection, exchange and dissemination.

4. Under these thematic areas, UNICRI has developed a programme strategy that operates in a cyclical manner: research, often used to inform policy-making, is produced and disseminated. The solid knowledge base created is translated into activities such as pilot programmes, capacity building, including training, and technical assistance. Activities are monitored and evaluated throughout their implementation, producing promising practices, establishing lessons learned and providing measurable outcomes that inform where further needs are required.

5. The work undertaken by the Institute is funded exclusively from voluntary contributions: a few, but much appreciated donations to the general purpose fund earmarked to support the aims, activities and purposes of UNICRI; or the majority of funds to the special purpose fund earmarked for the implementation of specific technical assistance, research and capacity building programmes.

39. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

1. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations. Operated as an autonomous body within the United Nations System, UNITAR is a project-based organization and does not receive any funds from the regular budget of the United Nations. Its 2016-2017 budget is $51.4 million, entirely self-funded through voluntary contributions mainly from UN Member States, other UN agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the private sector (special purpose grants, income from course fees, and voluntary contributions to the UNITAR General Fund).

2. UNITAR’s mission is to develop capacities of individuals, organizations and institutions to enhance global decision-making and to support country-level action for shaping a better future. The Institute
serves a broad-based group of constituencies including governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, UN and other international organizations.

3. Guided by the UNITAR Statute, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international agreements of 2015, the key thematic areas in which UNITAR operates include (1) strengthening multilateralism, (2) promoting economic development and social inclusion, (3) advancing environmental sustainability, (4) promoting sustainable peace and post conflict reconstruction, (5) increasing resilience and disaster risk reduction capacities, and (6) supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

4. The UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) provides technology-intensive satellite imagery and analysis to relief and development organizations within and outside the UN system to make a difference in critical areas such as humanitarian relief, human security, strategic territorial and development planning.

5. UNITAR’s training offer further expanded in 2016, with learning and training opportunities offered in fields including road safety, women’s leadership, migration, counter-terrorism, youth employability, disabilities and social inclusion. In 2016, UNITAR provided training, learning and knowledge-sharing services to over 54,840 individuals, representing a thirty-eight per cent increase from 2015 figures of 39,563. Eighty per cent of the Institute’s learning-related beneficiaries came from developing countries (and 50 per cent from countries in special situations, comprised of the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States). In total, 456 events were organized, seventy-two percent of which took place face-to-face. Technology-enhanced learning opportunities continue to represent an important element of programming, with e-Learning courses accounting for twenty-eight per cent of all courses.

6. UNITAR’s timely, sustained and concise training opportunities constitute a critical service to the international community. The Institute’s services can be described as high-quality executive training that is tailored to the immediate needs of the beneficiaries and presented in a concise format so as to cater their busy schedules. UNITAR’s training draws on high-level insider expertise from within the UN system, in addition to high-level members of academic and the think-tank communities. Participants not only benefit from proven state-of-the-art training methodologies, but they also gain unique insights through personal testimonies of UN veterans and top practitioners. Eighty per cent of the Institute’s learning-related beneficiaries have confirmed applying knowledge and skills to practice.

40. United Nations Volunteers

1. UNV’s dual mandate – to mobilize volunteers for the United Nations System and to promote volunteerism in development worldwide – is essential to the SDGs. With the adoption of the SDGs, volunteer engagement emerged as a viable mechanism to scale up and complement the actions of governments and national stakeholders in addressing development challenges, particularly at the local level. Both the SG Synthesis Report and GA Resolution that established the HLPF recognize volunteering as an essential means of implementation of the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda names volunteer groups as actors in their own right for the delivery of sustainable development.

2. UNV has a track record of applying a diversity of services and products – volunteer solutions – to support the United Nations System and Governments in addressing specific challenges to development and peace in different contexts especially in LDCs and post-conflict countries. Through various volunteer modalities, UNV makes a unique contribution to linking global capacities with local needs and empowering marginalized groups. It enhances the reach, scale and inclusiveness of interventions in the areas of development and peace.
3. To meet the current trends and challenges in development and peace, UNV has initiated the process of development of its Strategic Framework 2018-2021 with its attendant Global Programme. Both reflect a drive to increase the added value of volunteerism in the implementation of the SDGs by focusing on volunteer infrastructure and youth. UNV intends to enhance the capacity of the UN System and Governments to implement a differentiated volunteer infrastructure. In so doing, UNV will apply volunteer solutions to support the collaborative efforts of the UN and Governments to promote nationally-owned and South-South responses to peace and development issues, develop skills for youth employment, prevent violent extremism, build community resilience, broaden civic engagement and advance gender equality. UNV will respond to the demand of UN entities and Governments through customized solutions including: awareness-raising and advocacy, transfer of knowledge, participatory monitoring, establishment of regional/national volunteer infrastructure, and enhancing implementation capacities.

4. In 2016, 6,590 individual UN Volunteers served with 30 United Nations entities, representing 156 nationalities and carrying out 6,912 assignments in 126 countries. 45 per cent of these volunteers were women. 83 per cent of UN Volunteers are from countries of the global South, including over 2,550 volunteers serving in their own country to support national capacity building initiatives. UNV also continues to represent one of the largest South-South exchanges, with over 5,500 UN Volunteers from the South, including 53 per cent of international UN Volunteers serving in other countries in the South. In addition, through UNV’s Online Volunteering Service, 12,592 volunteers completed over 22,000 volunteering assignments with UN field presences and their partner civil society organizations in programme countries. UN Volunteers work within communities to advance progress towards the newly-adopted Sustainable Development Goals. They increase the reach and inclusiveness of UN and governmental actions. UN Volunteers work in peacekeeping and development, providing essential services such as in health and education. UN Volunteers serve to eradicate poverty, empower women, improve environmental resilience and disaster risk reduction.

5. UNV programme resources are channeled through several funding arrangements, comprising: (i) the Special Voluntary Fund (SVF); (ii) trust funds; (iii) the full funding modality whereby Member States provide funding to enable UNV to place their nationals as UN volunteers in the UN system; and (iv) cost-sharing agreements. In 2016, UNV received a total of US $14.0 million in contributions from Member States, representing a $3k increase on 2015 levels. There was a decrease in the number of contributing Member States to UNV, from 26 in 2015, to 25 in 2016. Contributions to the SVF increased slightly in 2016, from $3.7 million in 2015 to $3.9 million, which represents an increase of 5.1% and the fully funding volunteers’ contributions received decreased from $7.2 in 2015 to $6.1 in 2016. This represents the fielding of 418 volunteers directly supported by Member States.