

About the *Special Edition* of the *Yearbook*

This *Special Edition* of the *YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS* is a contribution to the important commemoration of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary. Divided into five substantive parts, the book captures the history of the United Nations—from the Atlantic Charter of 1941 to the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations of 1944, from the Yalta Agreement to the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations at San Francisco in 1945—and provides a context for the present and future challenges of the Organization.

It highlights the United Nations major achievements and developments over the past 50 years in the areas of international peace and security, development and strengthening of international law, disarmament, decolonization and the advancement of economic and social progress. It recounts the critical role of the United Nations in dealing with the early crises relating to the questions of Palestine, Korea, the Congo, the Suez Canal and others. It also reviews the increasingly complex recent United Nations peace-keeping operations and related activities worldwide.

It further highlights the Organization's humanitarian challenges, major development initiatives, the quest for the protection of human rights and a complex social agenda to expand opportunities, eradicate poverty and uplift human society. The final section—Into the Twenty-first Century—attempts to provide a future outlook of the United Nations based on the mandates resulting from many world conferences which have laid the foundations of a new international consensus for an expanded future development agenda.

Selection of material

Since its first publication in November 1947, the *Yearbook of the United Nations* has provided the most comprehensive and in-depth coverage of the activities of the United Nations, based on official documents. To date, 45 regular volumes have been published and have been the main source of the materials used in this *Special Edition*. The materials were selected on the basis of their significance in highlighting the various milestones, turning points and developments over the past 50 years. Excerpts are linked by narrative to put them into a proper context and illustrate the evolution of certain issues on

the United Nations agenda. These materials are supplemented by new texts, written on the basis of official documents, to cover the periods when no *Yearbook* existed or to elaborate the current issues. Selected bibliographical materials used in the preparation of the various narrative texts are listed by respective chapter at the end of the book.

Quotations set in large type at the start of each chapter are taken from the Charter of the United Nations, unless indicated otherwise, to reflect the primary missions of the Organization.

Typefaces and styles used

In order to differentiate between the new narrative and excerpts taken from past editions, the new texts are printed in a sans serif typeface known as Univers. Excerpts are printed in the regular Baskerville type used in the *Yearbook*, with the sources cited in brackets at the end of the relevant texts as shown in the examples below.

Many variations are evident in styles and usage of English language in the excerpts. As the English language has evolved over the years, the *Yearbook* has changed along with it. In addition, the attentive reader will discern that some American English present in the earlier editions was eventually replaced by a consistently English usage found in latest editions of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*. Other inconsistencies simply reflect evolutions in United Nations style and the format of the *Yearbook* itself.

Names of countries

Several changes have occurred in the names of countries. Many former colonial territories changed their names following independence: Belgian Congo became Congo (Leopoldville) and later Zaire, Southern Rhodesia became Zimbabwe. Other countries have changed names again thereafter: for example, Burma has become Myanmar, Dahomey became Benin and Upper Volta is now Burkina Faso. The reader should also recall that the seat of China in the United Nations was occupied by the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek until 25 October 1971.

Examples of the Typefaces Used

Newly written narrative for this edition:

In 1946, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was established to provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and to increase decision-making and public awareness of their special needs. The protection of children's rights has remained a major concern of the United Nations and led to the adoption of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United Nations in 1990 held a World Summit for Children, which adopted the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a Plan of Action for its implementation.

Excerpts taken from past editions:

Women were to be protected from discrimination in the field of health care under article 12, ensuring access to such services as those relating to family planning, pregnancy, confinement and post-natal care, free where necessary, and nutrition, and from discrimination in other areas of economic and social life by article 13, ensuring equal rights to family benefits, bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and participation in recreational activities, sports and cultural life. Article 14 applied the provisions of the Convention to rural women.

[YUN 1979, p. 890]