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# Annual Review of United Nations Affairs, 2014-2015



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# Annual Review of UN Affairs (ARUNA) 2014/2015 (issued in 2016)

Since the publication of its first edition in 1950, the Annual Review of United Nations Affairs (ARUNA) has stood as the authoritative resource for scholars, students, and practitioners. From the insightful commentaries and introductions, prepared each year by distinguished experts on UN affairs, to the full-text presentation of reports and resolutions, ARUNA provides a practical tour of UN actions and debates on an annual basis. ARUNA presents a comprehensive documentation of the principal developments in its key organs UN, covering the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. Solely official UN documentation is used.

ARUNA includes extensive commentaries by experts on United Nations matters and offers the benefit of in-depth analysis, along with the long-tested and comprehensive documentation of the work of the United Nations.

**Foreword:** Ms Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning

**Contributors:** Jacques Fomerand, Alexander K.A. Greenawalt, Khalil Hamdani, John Mathiason, Tim Wall

**Editors:** [Joachim Müller](#), Karl P. Sauvant

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# **Foreword: ARUNA 2014/2015**

## **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Global Commitments for a Better World**

by

**Amina Mohammed**

**Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General  
on Post-2015 Development Planning**

As the United Nations celebrates its 70th anniversary, the international community has taken a major step toward ushering in a new era of sustainable development, an era of transformation in which all are protected and empowered. The Sustainable Development Summit, which took place in New York on 25-27 September 2015, marked the adoption of “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. With this action, world leaders sought to launch the world on a path of inclusive, sustainable and resilient development.

Work to define the post-2015 agenda started a few years ago. It has been conducted through a very open and transparent process. Millions of people all over the world have participated – from governments, international organizations, academia, civil society, and the private sector. This work builds on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000, namely eight goals that the world community committed to achieving by 2015. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) take the MDGs a step further; presenting a universal agenda that is rights-based, people-centered and planet-sensitive. It is an agenda that should be taken as a whole, integrating in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development, with poverty eradication as its core. The SDGs aim at addressing the root causes instead of the symptoms and reflect the interconnectedness between development, peace and security.

Implementation and delivery through coherent action and global cooperation will be one of the litmus tests of this agenda and will require serious financial commitments, partnerships with all stakeholders and other means of implementation. We must leverage a variety of resources – financial and non-financial – to meet the needs of such a complex and integrated agenda.

In this regard, the potential of technology and innovation must be unlocked by embracing the data revolution and investing in capacities at the country-level for reporting and monitoring progress.

All financing streams must be optimized toward sustainable development, and coordinated for the greatest impact. Financing the 2030 agenda will not be found in one solution, nor borne by one set of actors. It will require tapping into all resources – public, private, national, and international. Existing official development assistance (ODA) commitments must be met. At the same time, additional resources need to be found domestically. While ODA and international public funding will continue to play a central and catalytic role, the

responsibility for raising the domestic public revenues necessary for the core economic and social functions will rest primarily with each national government.

In addition, urgent action is needed to mobilize, redirect and unlock the transformative power of trillions of dollars of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives. Private resources will need to be leveraged and channelled where they are the most needed.

A strengthened global partnership will be crucial for the implementation of the new development agenda: a partnership that should be equitable, inclusive, with mutual accountability, and a fair sharing of responsibilities.

All people, citizens, civil society, responsible businesses, local authorities, sub-national and national governments, parliaments, regional organizations, global institutions, and the scientific and academic communities have an essential role to play in this transformation.

If we are to build a more secure, just and sustainable future for all, now is the time to step up our efforts and promote rights and confront the persistent inequalities among people – including women. Women can be the most powerful drivers of sustainable development. Indeed, women are the nexus to water, food and energy and hold the keys to economic growth. To set a direct path toward poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth and gender equality, it is vital that we invest in women's leadership and participation in political, economic and public life. Women must be at the front lines in decision-making and implementation at all levels.

We must eliminate all barriers to women's full inclusion – including discriminatory practices based on gender, lack of financial support, any forms of violence and intimidation. Gender sensitive policies are needed to protect the rights and welfare of women and unlock their full potential through empowerment.

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The Sustainable Development Summit has set us on a trajectory toward sustainable development. The key is now implementation. We need to marshal all our energies toward this objective.

The United Nations system will continue to provide its support. But the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 agenda requires strong leadership by the Heads of States and Governments, backed by robust advocacy and mobilization from civil society. The changing development landscape and the implementation of the new agenda will require governments and societies to be fit for purpose to drive effective implementation.

## **Preface: ARUNA 2014/2015**

**Joachim Müller and Karl P. Sauvant**[\[1\]](#)

The Annual Review of United Nations (ARUNA) occupies a special place in the publications on the work of the United Nations—it provides readers with in-depth commentaries on the principal developments by a group of distinguished experts,<sup>[2]</sup> complemented by official United Nations documentation. This is done for the key organs of the Organization: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the International Court of Justice, and the United Nations Secretariat.<sup>[3]</sup> The period reviewed for the 2014/2015 edition of ARUNA coincides with the 69th annual session of the General Assembly, from September 16, 2014 to September 14, 2015. As one of the longest established annual publication on United Nations affairs, ARUNA provides an important reference source for policy-makers, academic researchers and anyone interested in this Organization.

In accordance with its comprehensive mandate, the United Nations is concerned with peace and security, development, social affairs, and human rights. The Organization has developed into a complex and global institutions with a well-established governance structure involving essentially all countries, namely 193 member states. A large part of the Organization's work can be considered routine United Nations business, including negotiating and elaborating treaty obligations, maintaining peacekeeping missions, implementing development projects, and providing for refugees.

### **Defining theme**

Each year there are a number of issues that characterize the period under review. During the 69th annual session of the General Assembly, the United Nations addressed long-term conflicts and newly emerging crisis, ranging from Syria, Ukraine, the refugee crisis, to fighting terrorism. The defining theme, however, were the consultations and negotiations to arrive at a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as of 2016. This process engaged in particular the General Assembly and ECOSOC – but it challenged the United Nations system as a whole, as reflected in the commentaries and documentation of the present ARUNA edition. It resulted in the approval of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>[4]</sup> on September 1, 2015, including a set of 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets up to 2030. Among others, the Agenda outlined the goals to end poverty and hunger, to ensure healthy lives, to promote inclusive and equitable quality education, and to achieve gender equality. The SDGs were adopted by the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development on September 25, 2015—a historic event that will direct global United Nations efforts during the next 15 years.

We are therefore grateful to Ms. Amina Mohammed, the Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, to have contributed the Foreword to this edition of ARUNA. Ms. Mohammed was instrumental in guiding the preparation process leading to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Her unique insights will facilitate a better understanding of the 69th annual session of the General Assembly.

## Commentaries by chapter

The commentaries that accompany the documentation contained in each chapter provide an overview of the workings of the Organization, highlighting important issues and providing an introduction to the documents that follow in each chapter.

*Chapter 1* covers the 69th session of the General Assembly. John R. Mathiason provides the Commentary: "Agreeing about what the World's Future should be." The regular documentation includes the opening and closing statements of the President of the session and the agenda of the annual session. Finally, the complete set of the Assembly's resolutions is provided. Mathiason notes that the 69th General Assembly agreed on the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, so that the 70th session could formally adopt them. The Assembly also made an effort to make the choice of the new Secretary-General, by the 70th session, a more open process and one that favored the election of a woman. In most other areas, progress continued incrementally as old resolutions were modified to reflect some new developments, and mention was made of emerging crises, such as that of refugees as a result of increasing regional conflicts.

*Chapter 2* deals with the work of the Security Council. Jacques Fomerand provides the Commentary: "Plus ça Change...?" The regular documentation contains the report of the Security Council, which gives a detailed account of the various issues discussed, the documentation considered and the decisions taken by the Council during the year under review. This is followed by the complete set of Security Council resolutions and the Presidential Statements. Finally, a selected document is provided that is of particular importance for the work of the Security Council during the year in review, namely the Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on Uniting our Strengths for Peace. Fomerand points out that the Security Council does not operate in a vacuum. He observes that it is the interaction and dynamics of various forces that eventually shape what the Council defines as a "threat" to peace and security and its responses to such threats. The prevailing modus operandi of the Council is considered incrementalism and muddling through. Another layer of complexity is the sobering fact that the Council itself is perceived as an entity operating in two sub-groups, its permanent and non-permanent members. Nevertheless, it is noted that the Council has improved its working methods, and some of its subsidiary bodies have become more transparent. A February 23, 2015 ministerial level open debate on the United Nations Charter was overshadowed by China's concept paper that emphasized the principle of sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. On July 22, 2015, the Council conducted its first discussion on the process of selection of the Secretary-General (the term of the current incumbent expires on December 31, 2016). Only one of the permanent members of the Council, the United Kingdom, responded favorably to calls for a widening and clearer structure of the process. Needless to say, suggestions to constrain the use of the veto elicit polite but skeptical reactions. In reality, little if anything can be

done if a policy proposal does not have the concurrence of the Permanent 5 members.

*Chapter 3* discusses the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Tim Wall provides the Commentary: “A Hesitant Start into a Bold New Era.” The regular documentation contains the Report of ECOSOC, comprising three segments. This is followed by the complete set of ECOSOC resolutions. Wall points out that the preparations of the SDGs were the single most important issue on the global economic and development agenda during the 2014/2015 United Nations year. ECOSOC would have been the logical place to undertake these preparations, given its role to coordinate the United Nations agencies and multilateral finance institutions and the fact that civil society and the private sector have access to the Council. As it turned out, however, preparations were undertaken in a working group of the General Assembly – perhaps reflecting the importance of the subject matter and the desire of all countries to be fully involved in the preparations of the SDGs. The challenge is now for ECOSOC to retool itself to take a leading role in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, by ensuring that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is, indeed, the central body within the United Nations system overseeing the implementation of the SDGs. In addressing this challenge, the Council should capitalize not only on its coordinating role, but also on its links with civil society and the business community in order to mobilize these constituencies in support of the new goals – and all support will have to be marshalled to reach them. This presents an opportunity that the Council cannot miss.

*Chapter 4* presents the work of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunals. Alexander K.A. Greenawalt provides the Commentary: “Between Obligation and Compliance.” The regular documentation contains the annual reports of the ICJ and the international criminal tribunals and gives details of its jurisdiction, its composition and the work undertaken. Greenawalt notes that the past year has seen both successes and challenges for United Nations affiliated international tribunals. If the year revealed a single dominant theme, it was the tension inherent in an international judicial system that enforces the legal obligations of states upon whose cooperation the functioning of that system depends. That tension has played out most prominently in the work of the international criminal tribunals. At almost every step, the International Criminal Court struggled to pursue its cases in the face of opposition from states that either wish to shield the accused from justice or to pursue their own accountability measures in processes that do not satisfy the Court’s complementarity framework; the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon have also found their efforts frustrated by the states that are the respective focus of their work. Even in the absence of affirmative obstruction, the work of international tribunals is also restrained by non-participation. For instance, missing from the 123 members states of the ICC are many important powers such as the United States, Russia, China, Israel, India, and Pakistan. Although tribunals have had moderate success in bringing individual perpetrators to justice, there remains very little recourse for adjudicating state

responsibility for these same crimes. These challenges, however, should not obscure the important role that international tribunals do play. As detailed in past years' commentaries, the International Court of Justice has played a productive role in the peaceful resolution of many international disputes, especially in cases in which states have found it in their common interest to seek recourse to the Court. The object of these tribunals is not merely to prosecute cases, but also to broadcast values. One remarkable achievement of these courts has been the way in which they have altered public discourse. Even as the President of Sudan evades arrest, for instance, the discussion of his international travels is forever shaped by the arrest warrant against him, ensuring that the discourse of international criminal law has helped shape a debate that might otherwise have not taken place at all. For supporters of international legal institutions, the long term impact on international public values will be just as significant as their day-to-day successes and failures.

*Chapter 5* describes the work of the Secretariat. Khalil A. Hamdani provides the Commentary: "Advancing the Global Agenda." The regular documentation contains the Annual Report of the Secretary-General to the 69th session of the General Assembly and a number of annual reports of various funds and programs of the United Nations system. Hamdani observes that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon deserves credit for success on the development agenda. However, his quiet diplomacy has not borne fruit on political matters, and peacekeeping operations are beset with difficulty. Although he still has another year in office, media have begun speculation on the choice of the next Secretary-General. There are demands for women candidates; donors want a manager who will streamline bureaucracy; and civil society wants a personality who leads rather than follows member states. The General Assembly has called for a more open and transparent appointment process. However, the Security Council nominates the Secretary-General, and it is doubtful that its permanent members would accept anyone who might challenge them to look beyond national interests. In the meantime, there is much to be done. The United Nations emergency response capabilities are underfunded and overwhelmed by intractable regional conflicts; Ban Ki-moon needs to forge an urgently needed consensus at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, in May 2016. There is also a need to jumpstart the United Nations Chief Executive Board for Coordination toward early progress on the SDGs, learning from the late start and catch-up effort on the Millennium Development Goals. There is a need to grow the partnerships with private sector and civil society. There is also a need to invigorate the Secretariat for life after 70. The Secretary-General should stay the course in his final year in office, advancing the global agenda.

We trust that this publication will be of use to all those interested in the work of the United Nations.

Vienna and New York

November 2015

[\[1\]](#) The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the institutions



with which the authors are affiliated.

[2] Details on the experts are shown below, under Contributors and Co-editors.

[3] Due to its inactive nature, the Trusteeship Council is not included.

[4] See, ARUNA 2014/2015 for General Assembly resolution, “Draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,” A/RES/69/315, September 1, 2015.

## Contributors: ARUNA 2014/2015

**Jacques Fomerand** had a lengthy career with the UN, and when he retired in 2003 he was director of the North American UN University Office. Since then he has taught in the UN Program at Occidental College, Los Angeles where he is assistant director. He also teaches at New York University, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice at City University of New York. He is widely published on matters related to international relations, international organization, human rights and global human security issues.

**Alexander K.A. Greenawalt** is Associate Professor of Law at the Pace University School of Law, where he teaches courses in International Law, International Criminal Law, and United States Foreign Relations Law. Professor Greenawalt has also taught at the Columbia University School of Law and has published widely in the field of international law, with a particular focus on international criminal law. Professor Greenawalt joined the Pace faculty from the firm of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. He previously served as a law clerk for The Honorable Stephen F. Williams of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Professor Greenawalt has also worked for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and for the Legal Advisor's Office of the United States Department of State. Professor Greenawalt is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Law, where he was a James Kent Scholar and Articles Editor of The Columbia Law Review. He has received an M.A. in History from Yale University and an A.B. in Religion from Princeton University.

**Khalil Hamdani** is associated with the Graduate Institute of Development Studies of the Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan, and an adviser to several multilateral organizations. He is a Board Member of the CUTS International Research Centre in Geneva. He served 29 years with the UN Secretariat, retiring in 2007 as Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development. Within the Secretariat, he has served with DESA, UNCTC and UNCTAD. He has also been consultant, staff or adviser to UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNITAR, UNIDO and the OECD. He has prepared many UN reports. Prior to joining the United Nations in 1978, he was a senior researcher at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and he also taught at the University of Islamabad. He received his B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University in 1968 and his Ph.D. in economics from Georgetown University in 1975. He can be reached at [khalilhamdani@jhu.edu](mailto:khalilhamdani@jhu.edu).

**John Mathiason** is Adjunct Professor at the Cornell Institute of Public Affairs at Cornell University. From 1999 to 2012 he was Professor of International Relations at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University. From 1966 to 1997 he was a career staff member of the UN Secretariat, completing his career as Deputy Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women. Since then, in addition to teaching management of the international public sector, he has provided advice and training to many organizations of the UN system in results-based management. In his research, he has examined the role of the international public sector in addressing issues of weapons of mass destruction, internet governance and the management of climate change. He is the author of *Invisible Governance: International Secretariats in Global Politics* (2007) and *Internet Governance: the New Frontier of Global Institutions* (2008). He was the editor of the *Journal of International Organizations Studies* until 2014. He has a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Joachim Müller** is Director for Management and Finance at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Vienna. He was previously with the UN system for 30 years as Director for Resource Management at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva, Controller at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, at the UN Secretariat, New York, and at the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna. He has been a UN election observer in Namibia and Angola and written extensively on UN reform and management, including *The Challenge of Working Together* (2010), *The Struggle for Legitimacy and Effectiveness* (2006), *The Quiet Revolution* (2001) and *New Initiatives and Past Efforts* (1997). He has a doctorate (D.Phil.) in Economics and Management Studies from Oxford University, Nuffield College.

**Karl P. Sauvant** is Resident Senior Fellow at of the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), a joint center of Columbia Law School and The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Senior Research Scholar and Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law School and Guest Professor at Nankai University, China. He was the Founding Executive Director of the Vale Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment, the predecessor of the CCSI, and Director of UNCTAD's Investment Division. He is the author of, or responsible for, a substantial number of publications. He is a Fellow of the Academy of International Business and an Honorary Fellow of the European International Business Academy. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975.

**Tim Wall** is policy advisor to the UN Global Compact, in which position he drafted their report to the UN Secretary-General on the post-2015 development agenda and served as Spokesperson for the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum, the private sector track to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Prior to that, he edited the 2012 edition of the UN Millennium Development Goals Report. As UN Information Officer, he acted as spokesperson or media coordinator for seminal UN conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), the Least Developed Countries (Istanbul,

2011), and the first-ever General Assembly special session on migration (2006), and was a deputy spokesperson for the UN Millennium Summit (2000). He edited UN Development Update from 1994 to 2000 and as author and editor of outreach material produced 60 Ways the UN Makes a Difference, one of the all-time most popular UN publications. Before that, Mr Wall was Director of Public Information for a number of non-profit organizations. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Political Science from Antioch College and studied public diplomacy at Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

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2. Statement to the General Assembly by Mr Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the General Assembly, on the closing of the sixty-ninth session, A/69/PV105, September 14, 2015, pp. 10-12.

3. Agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, A/69/251, September 19, 2014 and A/69/251/Add.1, June 1, 2015

C. Resolutions Adopted by the General Assembly at its Sixty-ninth session

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  - 1. Report of the International Court of Justice, August 1, 2014 - July, 31, 2015, Official Records of the General Assembly (Supplement No.4), A/70/4, 2015
  - 2. Report of the International Criminal Court, August 1, 2014 - July 31, 2015, A/70/350, August 28, 2015
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B. Regular documentation

1. United Nations: Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization for 2014/2015, Official Records of the General Assembly (Supplement No. 1), A/70/1, 2015

2. Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2014, E/2015/71, April 29, 2015

3. United Nations Children's Fund: Annual Report of the Executive Director: Performance and Results for 2014, including on Implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, E/ICEF/2015/5, April 15, 2015

4. United Nations Development Programme: Annual report of the Administrator on the strategic plan: performance and results in 2014, DP/2015/11, May 11, 2015

5. United Nations Population Fund: Report of the Executive Director for 2014: Progress made in Implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017, DP/FPA/2015/5, April 21, 2015 (Part I)

6. United Nations Office for Project Services: Annual report of the Executive Director, DP/OPS/2015/2, April 1, 2015

7. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Report of the High Commissioner for 2014/2015, Official Records of the General Assembly (Supplement No. 36), A/70/36, 2015

8. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Report of the High Commissioner for 2014/2015, Official Records of the General Assembly (Supplement No. 12), A/70/12, 2015

9. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: Report of the Commissioner-General for 2014, Official Records of the General Assembly (Supplement No. 13), A/70/13, 2015

10. World Food Programme: Annual Performance Report for 2014, WFP/EB.A/2015/4, May 21, 2015

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## Reviews: ARUNA series

### Review of Annual Review of United Nations Affairs (ARUNA) series

*Legal Publishing Preview*, December 1991

The *Annual Review of United Nations Affairs 1988* marks a change in scope and in format for the series. The 1987 volume was organized by the general topics with which the United Nations is concerned. For example, the chapter "Economic, Social and Human Rights Questions" contains a subsection on human rights in which the work of the Commission on Human Rights for that year is summarized, human rights situations in different countries are described, and action taken by the General Assembly is detailed. The primary source for material for the *Annual Review* was the *UN Chronicle*.

The 1988 edition of the *Annual Review* has expanded to two volumes. It is organized by the six United Nations organs: the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

The *Annual Review* is full of useful information about the activities of each organ, including reports, agendas, votes, resolutions and decisions. It includes much official United Nations documentation, and UN document numbers are provided for official material. The first chapter contains the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, with reference to resolutions and decisions adopted, and a chart of each country's voting record.

The *Annual Review* contains much of the same information that is the *UN Yearbook*. The *Yearbook* for the 41<sup>st</sup> (1986) session, published in 1990, is the latest edition available. I compared the index to the 1988 *Annual* with the indexes to the 1986 *Yearbook*. In the *Annual* I found sixteen references to under the topic "women," six references under the topic "Palestine" and not a single reference under "nuclear." In addition, the *Yearbook* has very useful indexes to names and to resolutions and decisions. Many libraries will want to purchase both the *Annual Review* because of its relative timeliness and

the *Yearbook* for its depth of subject access.

## **Review of Annual Review of United Nations Affairs (ARUNA)**

*International Journal of Legal Information*, Spring 1992, Vol. 20, No. 1

The *Annual Review of United Nations Affairs*, first published for the 1949 session, was issued until 1955/56 under the auspices of the New York University Graduate Program of Studies in the United Nations and World Affairs in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information. The first five editions printed speeches and discussions from the University's Institute for Annual Review of United Nations Affairs.

From the sixth edition, the Annual Review adopted a subject approach to the work of the United Nations. Early editions consisted of signed articles describing selected aspects of United Nations activities. In later volumes, the editors provided summaries of the work of the United Nations in such areas as "political and security questions"; "decolonization"; and "economic, social and human rights questions," mentioning the work of various bodies in each field. Chapter headings resembled those in the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, published by the UN itself. In recent years, according to the preface, the material has been drawn primarily from the UN Chronicle.

With the 1988 edition, covering the forty-third session of the General Assembly, the editors, the approach and the format of the Annual Review have changed. It has grown to two volumes. The three new editors are employed by the United Nations, but are careful to say that the current volume does not reflect the views of their agencies. Instead of using a subject approach, the editors have decided to describe the work of the United Nations by reprinting major documents of its principal institutional organs. According to the preface, "This has been done in order to enhance the presentation by providing an authentic, comprehensive and in-depth description of the organization, rather than simply recalling those activities which have captured public attention."

The six chapters cover the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat. The treatment of the Secretariat comprises by far the greatest portion of the work, beginning on page 243 of volume I and continuing through the end of volume II. Sections of this last chapter on the Secretariat include treatment of "Organizations Fully or Partly Financed out of the Regular Budget of the United Nations" (for example, the regional economic

commissions, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, and the United Nations Environment Programme) and “Autonomous Organizations and Organizations Exclusively Financed from Extra-budgetary Resources” (for example, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Development Programme). An annex provides an organizational chart of those secretariat departments and offices fully or partly financed from the regular budget of the United Nations. There is a list of abbreviations and a subject index.

An examination of Chapter I on the General Assembly provides an idea of the overall approach of this work. Initially reprinted is the address of the President of the General Assembly at the opening of its forty-third session. Thereafter, the agenda of the forty-third session is reproduced with the numbers of resolutions and decisions adopted in regard to each agenda item. A chronological list of all resolutions and decisions adopted during the session follows. Provided for each resolution or decision are title, relevant agenda number, plenary meeting at which adopted, date of adoption, and voting result if adopted by formal vote. Finally, a chart, taken from the United Nations’ *Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly*, lists resolutions and the way in which each country voted on recorded or roll call votes. Similarly, the agenda and lists of resolutions and decisions are provided for the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The agenda of the Trusteeship Council is reprinted.

The editors state that some of the documents have been edited to exclude parts not considered important for the current compilation. Corrigenda and Addenda have been incorporated into the text insofar as possible. Tables of contents have been provided for long documents lacking them. The document number or Official Record citation is provided for reprinted documents.

Oceana Publications has provided valuable United Nations reference works in at least two other instances by essentially photo-reproducing official United Nations sources; namely in *United Nations Resolutions. Series I: General Assembly and United Nations Resolutions. Series II: Security Council*. The current edition of *Annual Review of United Nations Affairs* is certainly less readable than previous editions. One essentially reads or scans annual reports, tables and charts. However, the reports contain a wealth of information, particularly from some of the Secretariat bodies, sometimes including budget and program data or publication lists.

The strength of the work is that it provides a concise overview of the issues addressed and the work performed by the various bodies of the United Nations. The current edition addresses more the institutional questions of what was done by the Security Council or the United Nations University, for example,



than the programmatic question of what was accomplished in the area of apartheid or disarmament. Subject access is still possible through the subject index, although this index appears somewhat limited in comprehensiveness. For example, under disarmament, there are two citations, one to a single-page and one to a three-page span, both found in the *Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization*. Perhaps, however, the new approach of the *Annual Review* provides a useful companion to the official *Yearbook of the United Nations*, with its subject orientation. It condenses a great deal of official information into two volumes and provides document citations, thus serving as an introduction to further research. It should remain a valued reference on the shelves of documents libraries specializing and libraries specializing in international affairs and international law.