


30
years
vienna
international
centre

30 ways the United Nations in Vienna makes a difference





The Vienna International Centre marks its thirtieth anniversary in 2009. Over the past 30 years, the United Nations family in Vienna has made a difference in...

The Vienna International Centre is home to the following members of the United Nations family:

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Vienna Office/Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Office in Austria (UNHCR)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Information Service (UNIS)

United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA)

United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (UNRoD)

United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)

...overcoming poverty

01 **UNCITRAL HELPS BUILD A MODERN AND OPEN GLOBAL TRADING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM THAT IS RULE-BASED, PREDICTABLE, NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND GOOD FOR BUSINESS.** By developing trade law standards on dispute resolution, transport, procurement, insolvency, secured transactions and electronic commerce, UNCITRAL contributes to the laws necessary to handle trade across borders effectively and efficiently, supporting good governance, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

02 **UNIDO PROMOTES ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL AREAS.** In Morocco, for instance, UNIDO supports some 200 small businesses that process agricultural products, and trains and graduates young entrepreneurs in agro-processing technologies, management and marketing, which increases employment through stimulating the rural economy.



Moroccan women have thriving agro-processing enterprises.
Photo: UNIDO

03 **IN RURAL MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA, UNIDO HAS ESTABLISHED TWO SOLAR-POWERED BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES.** Targeting small-scale farming communities without access to electricity or modern communications, the centres will improve living standards by providing communication and business services, including public and mobile phones, Internet access, market information, new ways of selling and buying goods, as well as training.

04 **UNIDO HELPS INDUSTRIES GAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE.** To counter the stagnation of Ethiopia's leather sales—formerly the country's second export earner after coffee—UNIDO is helping the Ethiopian leather industry re-conquer global markets by increasing productivity and the quality of finished leather products, and integrating the industry into the global value chain. After three years, this strategy achieved increased leather exports, including footwear, to the European Union, and a breakthrough into the United States market.

UNIDO helps industries gain a competitive edge

05 EXPERTS AT THE IAEA, TOGETHER WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, HELP COUNTRIES FIGHT HUNGER AND INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION BY USING NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES AND RELATED BIOTECHNOLOGIES. The scientists provide advice on insect pest control, plant breeding, livestock health and soil and water conservation.

06 AS OF MAY 2009, THERE ARE 436 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN 30 COUNTRIES, PROVIDING APPROXIMATELY 15 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S ELECTRICITY. The IAEA has fostered the efficient and safe use of nuclear power, while helping countries implement safe policies when dealing with nuclear waste. To strengthen the safety and security of nuclear technologies, IAEA supports countries in agreeing and implementing international standards; binding international conventions; international peer reviews to evaluate national operations; and an international system of emergency preparedness and response.

07 MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF WORLD TRADE IS CARRIED BY SHIP. UNCITRAL has developed a new international convention that modernizes and consolidates maritime transport law for the twenty-first century by providing for door-to-door container transport including an international sea leg. This common legal framework is expected to improve efficiency and commercial certainty, which will reduce transport costs for the benefit of business and consumers alike.

08 IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC CRISIS, INSOLVENCY CASES INVOLVING ASSETS OR CREDITORS IN MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY ARE OFTEN IN THE NEWS. For more effective resolution of cross-border insolvency cases, UNCITRAL has promoted cross-border cooperation among courts and legal professionals that will lead to greater procedural and cost efficiency and increase the returns to employees, creditors and investors.



The Ethiopian leather industry re-conquers global markets.
Photo: UNIDO

...making the world safer

09 **ONCE THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT) HAS ENTERED INTO FORCE, ALL TESTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL BE BANNED.** It will then be almost impossible to develop nuclear weapons in the first place or to improve existing designs in a militarily relevant way. But even before entry into force, the CTBT has set a powerful norm against nuclear testing: while 2048 nuclear tests occurred before the treaty's opening for signature, only five have been conducted since—and these provoked universal condemnation.

12 **MORE THAN 420 MILLION SEA CONTAINERS MOVE AROUND THE GLOBE EVERY YEAR, VIRTUALLY UNINSPECTED.** But organized crime syndicates and terrorists can use containers for criminal purposes. UNODC and the World Customs Organization have therefore designed a container control programme to help governments control the movement of sea freight. From four ports in Ecuador, Senegal, Ghana and Pakistan, the programme is expanding worldwide. It assists port enforcement teams in establishing profiling systems and modern control techniques to inspect high-risk containers.

10 **CTBTO IS BUILDING A GLOBAL MONITORING NETWORK TO MAKE SURE THAT NO NUCLEAR TESTS WILL GO UNNOTICED.** When complete, the system will consist of nearly 340 stations, located in 89 countries. Seismic, hydroacoustic and infrasound stations will detect any movement underground, in the oceans or in the atmosphere. Radionuclide stations will sniff the air for any signs of radioactivity. The network is already 75 per cent complete, creating an important deterrent against potential violators.

13 **WEST AFRICA HAS BECOME A KEY TRANSIT HUB FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF COCAINE SMUGGLED FROM LATIN AMERICA TO SERVE A BOOMING MARKET IN EUROPE.** Operating largely with impunity, the exploding drug trade is breeding widespread corruption and threatening security in the region. It was UNODC that first sounded the alarm on the crisis and spearheaded initiatives to address the dearth of information on crime, security sector reform, legal needs and communications between airports.

11 **THE IAEA HELPS PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY ENSURING THAT COUNTRIES USING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES ARE NOT SECRETLY DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.** More than 150 States have a safeguards agreement in force with the IAEA. Based on these agreements, IAEA inspectors verify the peaceful use of nearly 1,000 nuclear facilities globally.

More than 150 States have a safeguards agreement in force with the IAEA

14 **THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICE (ITS) OF UNODC OFFERS IT SOLUTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN INTELLIGENCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND DRUG MONITORING.** ITS develops, deploys and then supports these solutions which are now in use in over 40 countries. The National Drug Control System (NDS) and the PEN Online software systems automate the tracking of licenses for the production and import/export of controlled substances and medical products. The “go” family of software solutions includes the goAML system, designed to detect money-laundering; goCASE, a case management system for intelligence, law enforcement and prosecution agencies; and the goIDM model, which sets a government office standard for implementing IT infrastructure, including servers, PCs, local area networks and Internet connectivity.

15 **SATELLITE IMAGERY AND OTHER SPACE-BASED TECHNOLOGY CAN PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING INFORMATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS, AND FOR RESCUE AND RELIEF EFFORTS AFTER SUCH DISASTERS OCCUR.** Since 2003, the victims of over 80 major disasters have benefited from access to space-based information, facilitated by UNOOSA, including the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, the 2008 cyclone in Myanmar and the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. UNOOSA aims to ensure that all countries are able to access and use space-based information to support disaster management and emergency response, and also provides technical advisory support to ensure speedier delivery time of such information during emergencies.

16 **UNOOSA IS ORGANIZING THE TRAINING OF EXPERTS AROUND THE WORLD TO USE THE INTERNATIONAL COSPAS-SARSAT SATELLITE SEARCH AND RESCUE SYSTEM, WHICH ASSISTS SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AT SEA, ON LAND AND IN THE AIR.** The system comprises emergency beacons which send distress alert signals and location information via satellites that then transmit the information to search and rescue teams. The system is available to any country free of charge for the end-user and has so far saved more than 25,000 people in distress in 6,800 search and rescue events. The system has now been upgraded to address piracy and terrorist attacks.



Integrated field exercise, Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, September 2008. Photo: CTBTO

...making the world healthier

17 **INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE GLOBAL DRUG PROBLEM HAVE REVERSED A 25-YEAR RISE IN DRUG ABUSE AND HEADED OFF A PANDEMIC.** UNODC works to reduce both the supply of and demand for illicit drugs under the three international agreements on drug control, working with countries to improve public health as well as public security in order to prevent, treat and control drug abuse. INCB works with Governments to ensure adequate supplies of drugs are available for medical purposes and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market.

18 **UNODC'S PUBLICATIONS ON ILLICIT CROPS SUCH AS OPIUM AND COCA ARE CONSIDERED THE GOLD STANDARD OF RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD, CONTRIBUTING TO POWERFUL KNOWLEDGE-BASED POLICY.** Governments, the media and even intelligence agencies rely on UNODC's authoritative crop surveys and trend analysis. Generated by satellite imagery or field researchers, the data help Governments to plan strategies to tackle the illicit crops. To monitor cultivation, UNODC works with the main producer countries—Colombia, Peru and Bolivia for coca, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Lao People's Democratic Republic for opium, and Morocco for cannabis.

International efforts to contain the global drug problem have reversed a 25-year rise in drug abuse and headed off a pandemic

19 **UNSCEAR SYSTEMATICALLY EVALUATES GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS AND TRENDS OF RADIATION EXPOSURE, AND PROVIDES THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION STANDARDS.** UNSCEAR has recently reassessed radiation exposures from natural sources, from medical procedures, from accidents such as the one at Chernobyl in 1986, as well as due to weapons production and testing. Nuclear weapons tests, of which over 2,000 were carried out before the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) opened for signature in 1996, caused radioactive contamination to humans and the environment. Increased levels of the radioactive strontium-90, for example, were found in babies' teeth around the globe. The CTBT will ban all nuclear explosions on Earth once it has entered into force, thereby contributing greatly to human health and to a sounder environment.

20 **THERE ARE ABOUT 1,400 INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OF WHICH SOME ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** Half of the world's population lives in affected areas. Malaria alone infects up to 300 million persons each year, killing at least a million. UNOOSA helps countries use space applications in fighting the spread of diseases. Satellite remote sensing, global navigation satellite systems and geographic information systems make it easier to integrate ecological, environmental and other data to predict the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

21

THE IAEA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF FIGHTING CANCER BY SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT MEASURES INCLUDING RADIATION THERAPY AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE, AND MAKING THESE AVAILABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. The IAEA's technical cooperation programme has delivered over US\$200 million worth of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine projects over the past 30 years.



Examining an X-ray of a brain tumour that was treated with radiotherapy. Photo: Petr Pavlicek/IAEA



Collecting water samples for isotope measurements from an artesian well in Morocco. Photo: IAEA



UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme staff surveys poppy fields. Photo: UNODC

...protecting the environment

22 THE GLOBAL CTBTO MONITORING NETWORK THAT DETECTS NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IS ALSO HELPING TSUNAMI WARNING CENTRES BECOME FASTER. By providing seismic and hydroacoustic data directly to Tsunami warning centres in the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions (including Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and United States), the CTBTO network helps these centres warn populations up to two and a half minutes earlier than they can with data from other networks. CTBTO monitoring data is second-to-none regarding data timeliness, availability and quality. The CTBTO monitoring network can also help forecast volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, detect accidental radioactive release, and increase the wealth of knowledge on climate change.

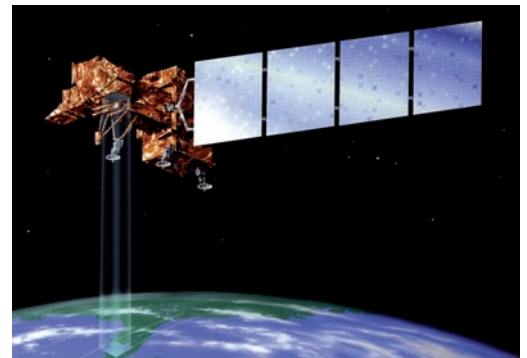
23 UNIDO HELPS INDUSTRIES ADOPT CLEAN TECHNOLOGY. For example, Venezuela is phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), used mainly for refrigeration and air conditioning, and known to deplete the ozone layer. UNIDO is partnering with Venezuelan institutions to train refrigeration technicians in environmentally sound technologies, and distribute the necessary equipment. Close to 3,000 technicians have been certified and a code of practice was developed and implemented. Moreover, recovered CFC is now purified and recycled.

The global CTBTO monitoring network that detects nuclear explosions is also helping Tsunami warning centres become faster

24 NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES CAN HELP IDENTIFY AND MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY POLLUTION. The IAEA helps protect the world's oceans, operating the United Nations' only Marine Environment Laboratory, which studies the ocean environment and coordinates technical aspects of international ocean protection, and training and assistance programmes.

25 OVER 14,100 MAN-MADE SPACE OBJECTS ARE ORBITING THE EARTH, INCLUDING NEARLY 3,300 SATELLITES, MANNED SPACECRAFT OR THEIR COMPONENTS, LESS THAN A THIRD OF WHICH ARE STILL OPERATIONAL. UNOOSA manages the only international Register of official information provided by Governments on space objects launched into Earth orbit or beyond. By registering a space object, the launching country or organization declares responsibility for the operation and its potential liability for any damage caused by the space object. The Register facilitates the implementation of other international treaties and legal principles governing the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

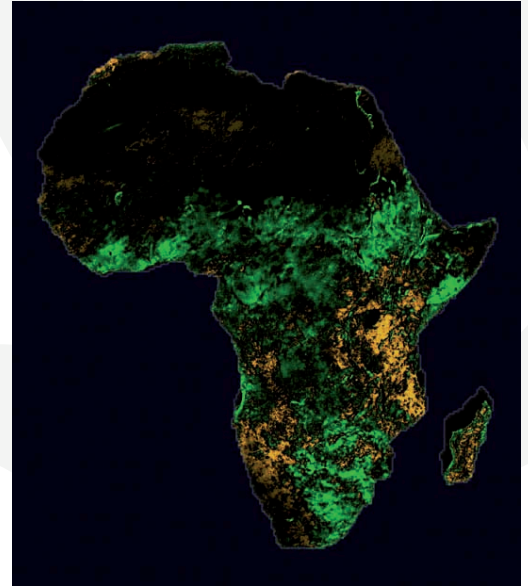
Nearly 95 per cent of all satellites—including Landsat-7 pictured here—have been registered with UNOOSA.
Photo: NASA & USGS



26 MOUNTAIN AREAS ARE SOME OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY DELICATE REGIONS, WITH PROBLEMS INCLUDING SOIL EROSION, FLOODING, AVALANCHES, DROUGHT, FOREST FIRES AND WATER SHORTAGE. Climate change in mountain areas can reduce the stability of rock (permafrost), increasing landslides. Space technology can provide the information needed to protect mountain ecosystems on Earth, through remote sensing, satellite communications and global navigation satellite systems. UNOOSA helps countries make use of these technologies for the sustainable development of mountainous regions. Since 2004, UNOOSA has been assisting mountain regions such as the Hindu Kush-Himalayan and Andean regions.

27 THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAIN REGION SPANS THE CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA AND UKRAINE. In the Carpathian Convention, these countries agree to cooperate, with the support of UNEP in Vienna, to protect mountain ecosystems by enabling sustainable regional development. Through international cooperation, public-private partnerships and experience exchange at the regional and global levels, protected mountain areas are better managed, sustainable tourism in mountains is promoted, mountain ecosystem services are better valued and mountain products are successfully marketed.

28 COVERING 19 COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, THE DANUBE REGION IS THE MOST INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN IN THE WORLD. The ICPDR is a platform for Danube countries to work together to make the river cleaner, and also to deal with the common problem of floods. Devastating floods in the 1990s have triggered a process of rethinking fundamental attitudes. Rather than trying to dominate nature, the Danube countries are learning to co-exist with floods, and are working together to mitigate their impact through the International Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection.



UNOOSA helps nations use satellite data to improve agriculture, combat disease, prevent desertification and save lives. Photo: NASA

...making the world more just

29 MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SUFFER THE EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING—THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FORM OF SLAVERY.

Criminals obtain victims through force, abduction or fraud, to exploit them in ways including prostitution, forced labour and the removal of organs. No country is immune. Through the United Nations anti-trafficking Protocol, countries have agreed to work together to prevent this crime, protect victims, and prosecute the perpetrators. UNODC is spearheading the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking which builds awareness of trafficking, broadens the information available on the crime and helps individual States to fight it. In 2009, UNODC published the first global assessment of the scope of human trafficking.

30 IN THE LAST DECADE, CORRUPT LEADERS HAVE STOLEN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FROM THE COUNTRIES THEY RULED.

UNODC, together with the World Bank, helps poor countries recover stolen assets which can then be used for development purposes. The Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative fosters cooperation between developing and developed countries, and between the public and private sectors, to repatriate looted assets. The aim is to reduce vulnerability to this crime, eliminate safe havens for dirty money and help countries get their money back

UNODC is spearheading the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

This desperate mother travelled from her village in Nepal to Mumbai, India, hoping to find and rescue her teenage daughter who fell victim to human trafficking.
Photo: Kay Chernush for the U.S. State Department





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