

UNCRD annual report 2004

United Nations Centre for Regional Development
Nagoya, Japan

Mission Statement of UN/DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) was created as the result of the consolidation of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, and the Department for Development Support and Management Services.

UN/DESA is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (a) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (b) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (c) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

Designations employed and presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat or the United Nations Centre for Regional Development concerning the legal status of any country or territory, or city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE



During the period covered by this edition of the UNCRD Annual Report, 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, the Centre, now in its thirty-third year, has continued its efforts to link every aspect of its operations with the important output of United Nations conferences and resolutions, notably the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the UN Millennium Development Goals. While continuing our mandate to assist the developing countries achieve better results from their development efforts, the Centre has also endeavoured to upgrade and adjust its programmes and projects in line with the changing needs and conditions of its client community, both in Japan and abroad. In this way the Centre strives to strengthen the relevance of its operations — a full account of which is contained within these pages.

At the May 2004 meeting of the Sixteenth UNCRD Advisory Committee, in Nagoya, following a detailed review of the full range of UNCRD training, research, and outreach activities, committee members fully endorsed the Centre's strategy and the direction being taken. It was also recognized during the meeting that, despite the generous and long-standing support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, UNCRD continued to face an urgent need to locate additional sources of funding and cooperation in order to meet its obligations and maintain its operations. I am happy to report that the committee, in addition to acknowledging the progress so far made in this regard, voiced whole-hearted encouragement for the Centre's intensified efforts to attract external support and provided useful guidance and advice on further possibilities for both funding and partnership arrangements for collaborative activities.

The Centre is already benefiting greatly from a range of support and collaboration such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-supported training initiatives which have expanded during this reporting period; the support of the Ministry of Environment (Government of Japan) for ongoing Environment Group research activity; and the generous support extended by Hyogo Prefectural Government (Japan) to the UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office. The Human Security Trust Fund is also seen as a viable source of funding for a number of the Centre's activities, principally the community-based disaster management project work at the Hyogo Office and the Human Security Group's research and training programmes at the Nagoya Office. As for UNCRD's regional offices in Nairobi, Kenya and Bogotá, Colombia, respectively, the Africa Office enjoys support from such agencies as JICA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), among others, and collaborates with the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) while the Latin America and the Carib-

bean Office receives considerable support from the City Government of Bogotá and has also forged collaborative partnerships with various governmental institutions and notable universities in the region. The Centre also continues to seek partnership arrangements with various bilateral and multilateral donor agencies at the international level.

It is also important at this juncture, to emphasize the long-term partnership and contributions extended to UNCRD by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), New York, which must be fully acknowledged. The Centre's operations have benefited greatly from the cooperative relationship with UN/DESA and its valuable and consistent support.

UNCRD is profoundly grateful to all these institutions and agencies for the assistance extended until now, and would earnestly request the further understanding, cooperation, and support of all interested parties to enable us to continue strengthening our commitment to the developing countries, particularly in the vital areas of human security, the environment, and disaster management. On the basis of the growing partnership arrangements, funding supports, and collaborative activities I have outlined above, all of us here at UNCRD look forward to increasing our efforts and relevance with respect to all our future operations — in Africa, the Asia-Pacific Region, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Kazunobu Onogawa
Director

AN OVERVIEW OF UNCRD ACTIVITIES, JULY 2003-JUNE 2004



Established in 1971, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) has direct links with the Socio-Economic Governance and Management Branch, Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN (SGMB/DPADM/DESA/UN) (see figure 1). An Advisory Committee meets approximately every two years to advise the Centre on its policy and overall direction. The Sixteenth Advisory Committee met in May 2004, in Nagoya, to review the activities of UNCRD in its Nagoya Office, as well as those of the Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office, and the regional offices in Africa and Latin America (see figure 2, UNCRD's organizational structure). The Advisory Committee members recognized the effectiveness of UNCRD's ongoing programme consolidation and efforts to link its activities with important development initiatives of the UN, noting that

by such a strengthening of the relevance of its operations, the Centre is much better placed to attract the sort of additional support and partnerships it needs. The reporting period of this Annual Report, 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, has been a year of steady progress and consolidation for the Centre's overall operations with the increasing levels of external support, both in terms of financial contributions and partnership arrangements, beginning to bear fruit. The following is a brief overview of some of the year's achievements.

The Training Group, in the Nagoya Office has continued to benefit from collaboration with JICA in expanding its training programmes — completing theme-specific collaborative training courses for Viet Nam and Chile, and continuing the training for Western China. Meanwhile, new thematic courses for Indonesia and Bulgaria have been launched during this period. The thirty-second annual International Training Course in Regional Development was successfully completed in Japan in June 2004.

Training-based research, at the Nagoya Office, undertaken by the Environment Group and the Human Security Group has intensified as a result of external support and partnership agreements. The Environment Group's initiative on environmentally sustainable transport is in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (Government of Japan), as well as other governments and national/international organizations, while research on solid waste management progresses in collaboration with relevant national and international NGOs. Additionally, donor agencies and organizations are being tapped for funding support for a project in Asian countries on promoting local- and regional-level sustainable production and consumption. The Human Security Group's national training programme in Lao PDR has continued successfully, in collaboration with JICA and the Department of General Planning, Committee for Planning and

Figure 1. Relationship between UNCRD and UN/DESA

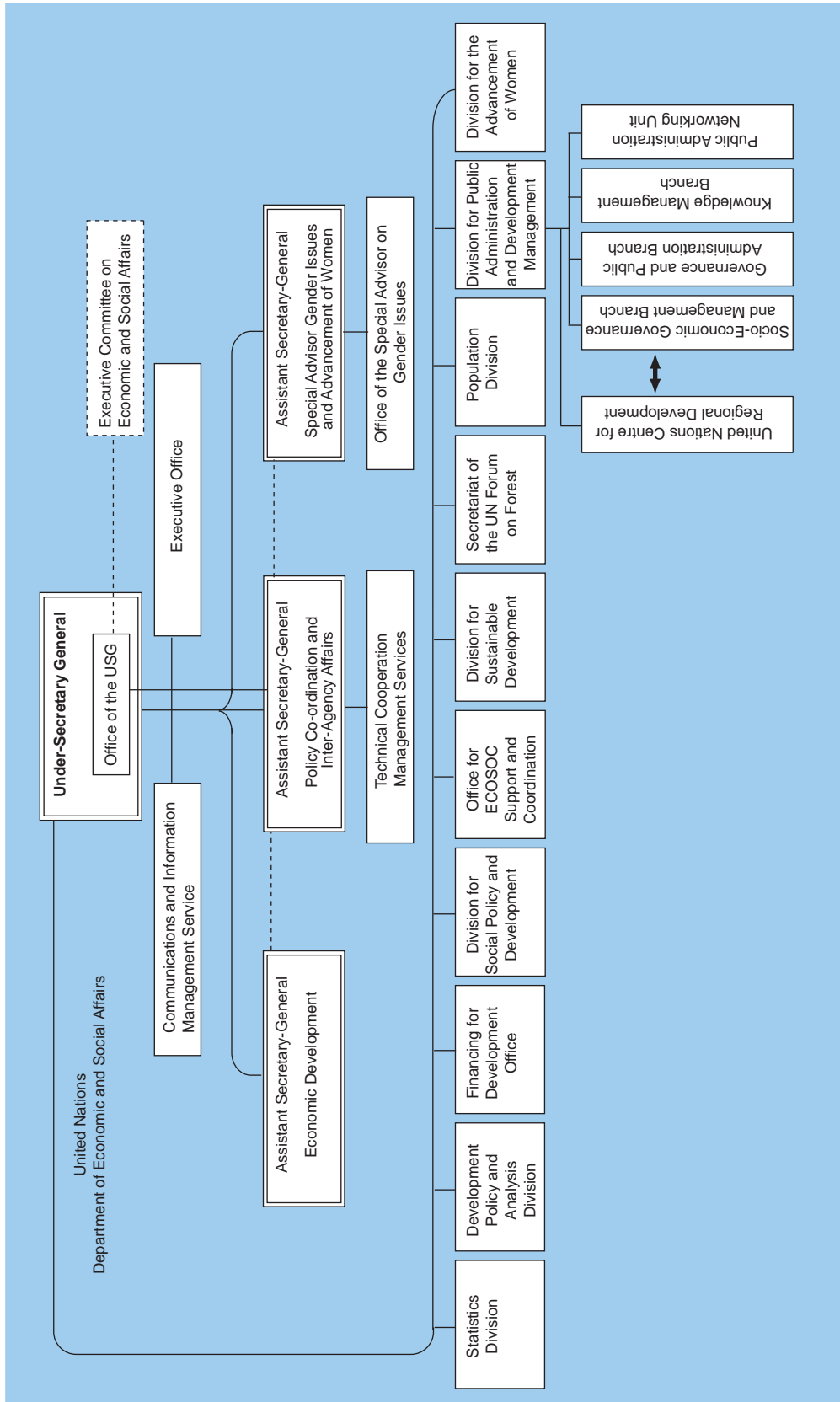
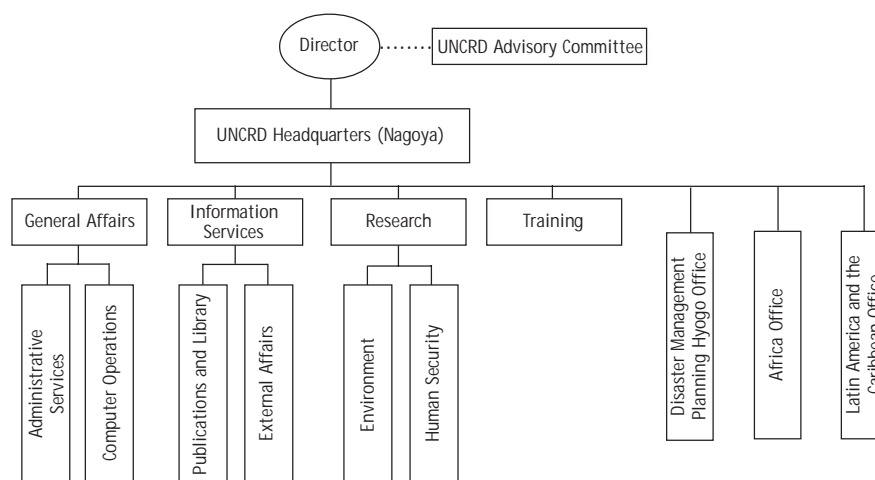


Figure 2. UNCRD Organizational Structure



Cooperation (DGP/CPC), Government of Lao PDR – the fourth and fifth training courses were conducted during the reporting period. The group is also undertaking research on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for human security, in partnership with the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), an Indian nongovernmental organization (NGO), and a private agency, n-Logue Communications.

In the Hyogo Office, disaster management and planning research and training activities benefit greatly from the support of the Hyogo Trust Fund – in particular, the ongoing studies on community-based disaster management. Additionally, the Indian Earthquake Safety Initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with GeoHazards International (GHI) and SEEDS, an Indian nonprofit organization, while a pre-event for the 2005 UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (to be held in Kobe) was organized in collaboration with the Geneva-based UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

The activities of both the UNCRD Africa Office, in Nairobi, Kenya, and the UNCRD Latin America and the Caribbean Office, in Bogota, Colombia, benefit from a wide range of support and collaboration. In Nairobi, the annual Africa Training Course in Local and Regional Development Planning and Management is conducted in collaboration with the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD), JICA, and UNDP, Kenya while various in-country train-

ing courses and workshops enjoy support and collaboration from the Ministry of Lands and Settlement and the Ministry of Planning and National Development (Government of Kenya) as well as the University of Nairobi. In-country training in Ethiopia has benefited from collaboration with the Oromia Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (OBFED) and UNICEF Ethiopia. UN/DESA, along with AICAD, UNDP, and JICA country offices collaborated with the Africa Office in organizing an international workshop and will implement a training-of-trainers course and policy seminar components of a local governance project, among others.

The LAC Office has enjoyed generous funding support from the City Government of Bogotá since its inception. Its capacity-development activities for the Bogotá-Cundinamarca Region are conducted with collaboration from local universities as well as the University of California at Berkeley. UN/DESA is involved in supporting a number of activities within this project. The LAC Office is also securing collaborative arrangements with the Ministry of Housing and Urbanism (Government of Chile), and the University of Vina del Mar (Chile) and Blas Pascal University (Argentina) in ongoing human security project work.

This scale of collaborative activity, partnership, and funding support is enabling UNCRD to further strengthen its operations and provide a higher quality, more relevant service to its constituent community.