
UNIT 10 ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN POLICY-MAKING

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10.0 LEARNING OUTCOME

After studying this Unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the International Agencies involved in development and institution building in India;
- Explain the role of International Agencies in policy-making; and
- Evaluate the role of International Agencies in achieving Millennium Development Goals in India.

10.1 INTRODUCTION

India is the World's largest democracy with a vibrant citizenry, an active Judiciary, civil society groups, and a fiercely independent media. It has been a committed supporter of the UN human rights system. The promotion and protection of human rights is ingrained in its domestic and foreign policies. Our country has a high international standing, which is evident from the fact that India got elected to the first United Nations Human Rights Council with the highest number of votes, that is, 173 votes out of 190 (The Economic Times, 11 May 2006). As the world-systems perspective has shown that contemporary socio-economic and political problems cannot be adequately addressed at the national or state level, we need global cooperation to create a more peaceful, prosperous, and democratic world. In this context, the Millennium Summit in September 2000 marked the adoption of a set of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are adopted by India also.

MDGs are to be achieved, by using a set of measurable targets, by 2015. These goals include eliminating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality rate, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and ensuring environmental sustainability. To achieve MDGs, international agencies provide technical and financial assistance and other forms of practical help.

Along with the UN, they help to formulate policies; set standards and guidelines; and foster support and mobilise funds.

In this Unit, we will explain the role of international agencies in the development of India. In this regard, we will identify and describe the international agencies involved in the process. Secondly, we will highlight the role of these agencies in select areas, and evaluate their impact on development. Lastly, we will make necessary suggestions. In the subsequent section, we will present an overview of the organisation and development approaches of international agencies to achieve the desired goals.

10.2 UNITED NATIONS: ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEWS AND DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

10.2.1 The United Nations (UN)

The United Nations was established on October 1945. At that time 51 countries committed to preserving peace through international cooperation and collective security. As of 2006, UN membership totals 191 of the 193 countries of the world. As a member of the UN, India agrees to the obligations of the UN charter that sets out the fundamental principles of international relations. According to the charter, four main purposes of the UN are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.

Other important aspects of the UN charter highlight human rights, humanitarian assistance, and the development of international laws. The United Nations is not a world government, and it does not make laws. However, it does provide mechanisms to assist in the resolution of international conflicts and the formulation of policies on matters affecting the globe. At the UN, all member states have a voice and a vote in the policy process.

The United Nations comprises of the following six principal organs:

- The General Assembly
- The Security Council
- The Economic and Social Council
- The Trusteeship Council

The Secretariat

The International Court of Justice, located in The Hague in the Netherlands

Note: It is to be noted that five of them, besides the International Court of Justice, are based at UN headquarters in New York. However, the sixth, the International Court of Justice, is located at the Hague in the Netherlands.

The General Assembly

All UN Member States are represented in the General Assembly, that is, like a 'parliament of nations'. It meets to consider the world's most pressing problems. In its meeting, each individual member state has one vote. A two-thirds majority is required for decisions about important issues like international peace and security, admission of new members, and the UN budget. Simple majority decides other matters. In recent years consensus, rather than formal vote, is encouraged

to reach decisions. When the General Assembly is not meeting, its six main committees, other subsidiary bodies and the UN secretariat carry out its work.

The Security Council

Under the UN Charter, the primary responsibility of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security. There are 15 Council members, all member states are obligated to carry out the Council's decisions. Among these nations—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States are permanent members. The other ten members are in the non-permanent category and are elected by the General Assembly for two-year term. In the future, the composition and working of the Security Council may be changed to reflect the current political and economic realities. The Security Council may convene at any time whenever peace is threatened. The Security Council also makes recommendations to the General Assembly on the appointment of a new Secretary-General and on the admission of new members to the UN.

The Economic and Social Council

One of the UN's central mandates is the promotion of higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of socio-economic progress and development. In this regard, the Economic and Social Council (ESC) functions under the broad authority of the General Assembly. The UN system works in a variety of ways to promote socio-economic goals. The ESC has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term. It is responsible for co-ordination of the economic and social work of the United Nations and the UN family of organisations. The Council is the central forum for discussing international socio-economic issues, and for formulating policy recommendations. It fosters international cooperation for development and consults with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Council also has subsidiary bodies, which report to it. These bodies include the commission on Human Rights (which monitors the observance of human rights), as well as other bodies that focus on issues, such as, social development, the status of women, crime prevention, control of narcotic drugs, and environmental protection. In addition, five regional commissions were created to promote economic development and cooperation.

The Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council, consisting of the five permanent members of the UN, was created to provide international supervision to the administration of Trust Territories placed under the Trusteeship System. The major goals of the Trusteeship System were to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. As of 1994, all Trust Territories have attained self-government or independence, either as separate states or by joining neighbouring independent countries.

The Secretariat

Under the UN Charter, the Secretariat is mainly responsible for carrying out the substantive and administrative work of the United Nations as directed by the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the other organs of the UN.

The Secretary-General is the Head of the Secretariat who is appointed for a five-year, renewable term. He provides overall administrative guidance. The Secretariat staff informs the world's communication media about the work of the United Nations; organises international conferences on issues of worldwide concern; and interprets speeches and translates documents into the organisation's official language. The Secretariat employs some 8,900 staff from about 170 countries under the regular budget, and almost the same amount under special funding. The Secretariat

stations include the UN Headquarters in New York, UN offices in Geneva, Vienna, Rome, Nairobi as well as other locations.

The International Court of Justice

The UN provides that all Members (191) of the UN are *ipso facto* parties to the Statute (Article 93, paragraph 1, of the UN Charter). India is the original member of the International Court of Justice, which is also referred to as the World Court and the primary judicial organ of the UN. It comprises fifteen judges, who are elected jointly by the General Assembly and the Security Council. The International Court decides disputes between countries. For example, a case concerning the Status vis-a-vis the Host State of a Diplomatic Envoy to the United Nations (Dominica V. Switzerland, 2006). Although participation by states in the proceedings of the Court is voluntary; if a state does participate in proceedings, it is obligated to comply with the Court's decision. In addition, the Court provides advisory opinion to the General Assembly and the Security Council on request. In this regard, advise on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2003-2004), and legality of the threat or use of Nuclear Weapons (1994-96) are important examples. The UN has a number of Specialised Agencies to deal with various aspects of development and policy-making. In the next sub-section, we will deal with these agencies.

10.2.2 UN: Specialised Agencies

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), along with the World Bank and 13 other independent organisations as depicted in table 10.1, are known as 'specialised agencies.' This table mentions the year of establishment and describes the role of Specialised Agencies. These agencies are linked to the UN through cooperative agreements. They are autonomous bodies created by inter-governmental agreements. The Specialised Agencies have broad responsibilities in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields.

The mandates of the international specialised agencies cover virtually all areas of socio-economic endeavour. These agencies provide technical assistance and other forms of practical help to formulate policies, set standards and guidelines, foster support and mobilise funds. The World Bank, for example, provided more than a billion by way of development loans.

A number of UN offices, programmes and funds work to improve the socio-economic conditions of people. These offices include the Office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). All of them report to the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council as per requirement. They have their own governing bodies, budgets and secretariats. Together with the United Nations, they are popularly known as the UN family or the UN system. These organisations, collectively, provide technical and other forms of assistance in socio-economic areas.

UN Mandate: Development Assistance

One of the UNs central mandates is to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of socio-economic progress and development. In this regard, 70 per cent of the work of the UN system is devoted to accomplishing this mandate. This is based on the belief that eliminating poverty and improving the well being of people on the globe is necessary step in creating world peace. With respect to promoting development, the UN has two unique advantages: a global presence, and a comprehensive mandate that spans socio-economic and emergency needs.

Table 10.1: Role of Specialised International Agencies

Name of Agency (Year of establishment)	Role
ILO (1919)	It formulates policies and programmes to improve working conditions and employment opportunities, and sets labour standards used by various countries.
FAO (1945)	It works to improve agricultural productivity and food security, and living standards of rural people.
UNESCO (1945)	It promotes education for all, cultural development, protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage, international cooperation in science, press freedom and communication.
WHO (1948)	It coordinates programmes aimed at solving health problems and the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health. It works in areas like immunisation, health education and the provision of essential drugs.
WB (1944)	It provides loans and technical assistance to developing countries to reduce poverty and advance sustainable economic growth.
IMF (1945)	It facilitates international monetary cooperation and financial stability and provides a permanent forum for consultation, advice and assistance on financial issues.
ICAO (1944)	It sets international standards for the safety, security and efficiency of air transport, and serves as the coordinator for international cooperation in all areas of civil aviation.
UPU (1875)	It establishes international regulations for postal services, provides technical assistance, and promotes cooperation in postal matters.
ITU (1865)	It fosters international cooperation to improve telecommunication of all kinds, coordinates usage of radio and TV frequencies, promotes safety measures and conducts research.
WMO (1950)	It promotes scientific research on the Earth's atmosphere and on climate change, and facilitates the global exchange of meteorological data.
IMO (1948)	It works to improve international shipping procedures, raise standards in marine safety, and reduce marine pollution by ship.
WIPO (1967)	It promotes international protection of intellectual property and fosters cooperation on copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs and patents.
IFAD (1977)	It mobilises financial resources to raise food production and nutrition levels among the poor in developing countries.
UNIDO (1966)	It promotes the industrial advancement of developing countries through technical assistance, advisory services and training.
IAEA (1957)	It is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation under the aegis of the UN, which works for the safe and peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Source: <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/unagencies.html>

Acronyms:

ILO	- International Labour Organization.	UPU	- Universal Postal Union.
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization.	ITU	- International Telecommunication Union.
UNESCO	- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.	WMO	- World Meteorological Organization.
WHO	- World Health Organization.	IMO	- International Maritime Organization.
WB	- World Bank.	WIPO	- World Intellectual Property Organization.
IMF	- International Monetary Fund.		

ICAO	-	International Civil Aviation Organization.	IFAD	-	International Fund for Agricultural Development.
			UNIDO	-	UN Industrial Development Organization.
			IAEA	-	International Atomic Energy Agency.

United Nations-Funds and Programmes

The UN programmes and Funds work under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to carry out the UN's economic and social mandate. In 1997 the Secretary-General set up the UN Development Group to enhance overall cooperation among the UN operational programmes and Funds. These Programmes and Funds include:

- United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)
- United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHSP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNPF)

The co-ordination between the UN and the specialised agencies is achieved through the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. This Board comprises of the Secretary-General, the Heads of the specialised agencies, funds and programmes, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the World Trade Organisation.

UN system – Pooling resources

The UN system is pooling its efforts to tackle complex problems that cut across organisational areas of expertise and defy the efforts of concerned country acting alone. The Joint Programme on AIDS pools the expertise of eight UN agencies and programmes to combat AIDS. The global environment facility, a \$3.5 billion fund administered by UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, helps to carry out the activities regarding environment programmes. In fighting with complex problems joint initiatives to expand immunisation and develop new vaccines have enlisted the support of governments, business leaders, philanthropic foundations, NGOs as well as international agencies like the UNICEF, WHO and World Bank.

UN: Agenda Setting for Development

In the 1960s setting of priorities and goals by the UN was based on a series of 10-year International Development Strategies. However, while focusing on particular issues, the strategies of the successive decades have consistently stressed the need for progress on all aspects of socio-economic development. In September 2000, the world leaders adopted a set of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the Millennium Summit.

The UN played a crucial role in building international consensus on action for development. Obviously international agencies contribute to policy-making through guidance, technical and financial assistance, and support.

10.3 POLICY-MAKING: ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

The MDGs are to be achieved by India by using a set of measurable targets by the year 2015, which include cutting in half the proportion of people in the world who earn less than a dollar a day; achieving universal primary education; eliminating gender disparity at all levels of education; and reducing child mortality while increasing maternal health in India.

In this section, we will describe the role of International agencies in policy-making and development. In the first sub-section (10.3.1), we will describe the role of IMF, World Bank, and UNICEF in detail. In the second sub-section (10.3.2), we will discuss the role of international agencies with reference to selected programmes.

A. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Article 1 of the Articles of Agreements sets out the IMF's main responsibilities to:

- promote international monetary cooperation;
- facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade;
- promote exchange stability;
- assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments; and
- make its resources available to member countries experiencing balance of payments difficulties.

i) Policy-Making: Surveillance

Surveillance is dialogue and policy advice that the IMF offers to its members. The IMF conducts in-depth appraisals of each member country's economic situation on an annual basis.

Reports of the IMF are published twice each year in the World Economic Outlook and the Global Financial Stability Report. In the policy process, discussions take place with the authorities on the policies that are most conducive to stable exchange rates and a growing and prosperous economy. It also combines information from individual country consultations to form assessments of global and regional developments and prospects. The IMF won new power to monitor the world economy. Its member countries endorsed a new framework to monitor how the economic policies of one country affect others. For example, Washington pushes Beijing to loosen its tightly managed currency. In this regard, the IMF made the case that such move was critical to coordinating economic policies and preventing the unruly unwinding of huge global imbalances in trade and investment flows that could spark a world recession.

In the assessment of India's economic performance, the IMF has raised the country's growth projection for 2006 to 7.3 per cent – from the 6.3 per cent that it had forecast of September 2005 (Rajagoplan, April, 2006). However, it cautions India on inflationary pressures and the continuing high fiscal deficit, even while making a stronger push on economic reforms, especially in the infrastructure sector. The IMF also calls for liberalisation of labour laws in India. The IMF's semi-annual report, which was released on April 19, 2006 mentions that while inflationary pressures have prompted the Reserve Bank of India to tighten the monetary policy, the report notes that further interest rate increases may be needed as monetary conditions are still accommodative and credit is expanding strongly. The report also draws attention on the challenge posed by fiscal deficit. Even after three years of fiscal consolidation, the general government deficit remained

broadly unchanged in the fiscal Year 2005-06. The IMF reiterated its suggestion to India to achieve the objective of cutting fiscal deficit. In addition, the report has a word of caution on globalisation and inflation. It emphasises on the fact that if the process of multilateral dialogue is not strengthened, globalisation could prompt a backlash, reversing much of the gains of the last few decades.

ii) **Technical Assistance**

Technical assistance, which includes training, helps to strengthen the capacity to design and implement effective policies. This assistance is offered especially in fiscal policy, monetary and exchange rate policies, banking and financial system supervision and regulation, and statistics. In this context, services are usually free of charge.

iii) **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance is also provided to correct balance of payment problems. However, continued financial support from IMF is conditional on the effective implementation of a policy programme designed jointly by the national authorities concerned and the IMF.

The IMF works to reduce poverty independently and in collaboration with the World Bank and other organisations. It provides financial support to member countries through its concessional lending facility, popularly known as the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF). In addition, the IMF also provides assistance through debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

iv) **Resources**

The IMF's resources are contributed by its member countries through subscriptions. The major source of funds is through payment of quotas, which determine its financial and organisational relations with the institutions. The total amount of quotas determines the IMF's lending capacity. In addition to quotas, the IMF is authorised to supplement its resources by borrowing. The annual expenses of running the IMF are met by the difference between interest receipts (on outstanding loans) and interest payments (on quota deposits).

B. The World Bank (WB)

The World Bank (WB) is a specialised UN agency with 184 member countries. India has joined the WB in 1944 and is one of its oldest members. It is headquartered in Washington D.C. and employs development professionals from almost every country in the world; they are stationed at headquarters or in any of its 109 country offices.

At present, the WB is focused on achieving the MDGs, which define specific targets in terms of school enrolments, child mortality, maternal health, disease control and access to drinking water to be met by 2015.

The WB is partnering with India to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of citizens. To achieve the MDGs, the WB group lays emphasis on investing in people and empowering communities, improving the effectiveness of government, and promoting private sector-led growth.

i) **World Bank – Action Plan (2005-08)**

The World Bank Group's India Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) is closely aligned with the Government of India's poverty reduction strategy embodied in the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007).

ii) World Bank – Strategy

Its strategy is governed by three guiding principles. It mainly focuses on helping to achieve development goals, and targeting the Bank's limited resources in the most effective manner. The World Bank's strategy increasingly focuses on providing practical advice to policy-makers on the major development challenges in India by sharing good practices and experiences from within the country and abroad. The WB envisages a substantial increase or doubling the volume of lending to India. In this regard, the focus will be on infrastructure, social development (particularly education and health), and rural livelihoods.

Financing – Indian National Programmes

Under the new strategy, the Bank uses new approaches to finance national programmes, such as, the ongoing US \$500 million Bank credit to fund India's Elementary Education Programme. The programme is being co-financed with other development partners under common arrangements. Similarly, the WB is contributing for the improvement of national and state health programmes, urban development, and rural roads.

Reforming: Indian States

The new strategy aims to spread the Bank support more widely. In this context, lending is based on 'guidelines for engagement' for each key sector with special emphasis to help the poorest and weakest states. Policy dialogue on fiscal and governance reforms, is to be offered in partnership with other donors (ADB, DFID) etc. to the 12 largest states in India which contain 90 per cent of the country's poor, regardless of the progress in the states concerned in the implementation of reforms. The states identified are Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In addition to reforms, capacity building efforts will focus on Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, and Jharkhand to enable them to use government funds more efficiently.

To meet major challenges, the Bank will also assist India through analytical reports on key developmental issues. It attempts to ensure that its portfolio performance is of the highest standards in achieving the objectives. In addition, increased IFC lending is envisaged for financing infrastructure and supporting the expansion and globalisation of companies in India.

Lending to India from the World Bank touched \$2.9 billion in 2005, more than double the \$1.4 billion lent a year earlier—making our country the world's largest recipient of the World Bank assistance. As apart of this total (2.9 billion), India received IDA credits totalling \$1.1 billion that is the largest for any country in the world – and IBRD loans totalling \$1.8 billion, that is, the fourth highest for any country in the world. In this period, IFC financing also rose to over \$400 million.

The World Bank group had 64 active projects with a net commitment of about \$13 billion at the end of July 2005. Of this US \$6 billion was from IDA, US \$5.7 billion from IBRD and US \$0.1 billion under the GEF/Montreal Protocol. The increase in support to India highlights the rapid growth in India's economy with the bulk of the new lending going to much-needed infrastructure and human development projects.

World Bank – Analytical and Advisory Services

Under the World Bank's analytical and advisory services, following reports are to be released:

- India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future
- Unlocking opportunities for Forest Dependent People
- Service Delivery in India

- o Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS in India
- Climate Change
- o Disability Issues in India
- Labour and Employment Study
- Development Policy Review

C. The UNESCO

In the field of national educational policies, the UNESCO's main thrust is to provide a focused support in development and / or reinforcement of national education sector plans for the achievement of Education For All (EFA). It supported India in the implementation of EFA Programme. In this context, the state governments have developed plans of action on the basis of the existing national education sector development strategies. The UNESCO advised that these plans should be based on transparent and democratic process involving all the stakeholders, that is, peoples' representatives, community leaders, parents, learners, NGOs and CSOs. The main vehicle for providing elementary education to all children in India is the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which was launched in 2001-02. The UNESCO/ECOSS project has been quite successful in Sikkim. It aims to promote community participation in developing tourism in the Central Asia/Himalayan region, by helping to generate employment opportunities and income-generating activities for local people. Selected members of the community were trained to become cultural or environmental guides.

The following section is devoted to presentation of information on important programmes of the UN, under which various specialised international agencies are working to achieve specified objectives.

i) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

To achieve the MDGs, UNDP is working at the conceptual level with a wide range of partners to advocate for policy and institutional changes needed to fight poverty more effectively. Child labour elimination forms a major area of assistance under the GOI-UNDP supported Community Based Pro-Poor Initiative Programme (CBPPI). With assistance from NORAD, the UNDP is supporting two major social mobilisation initiatives for getting children out of work and into school, one with the M. V. Foundation in Rangareddy District of Andhra Pradesh and the other with the Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA) in Mirzapur District of Uttar Pradesh.'

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)—Success Story

The UNV is the UN organisation, which was created in 1970 to support sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism, including the mobilisation of volunteers. It reports to the UNDP and works under UNDP's country offices, situated around the world. The UNV serves the causes of peace and development through enhancing peoples' participation. It embraces all types of volunteer action while holding to the values of free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity, which are the foundations of voluntarism.

UNDP—Orissa and Mission Shakti, Government of Orissa designed a computer training programme, which is undertaken by the literate women members from different WSHGs at Garidaswar ICT Kiosk in Darrathpur Block of Jajpur district. The UNV office in New Delhi has been working as a 'voluntary hub' – a haven for experiments in volunteer action.

The UNDP's substantive focus is on providing help in building institutional capacity, which is needed to promote, support and accelerate human development and sustainable growth through

funding and policy advisory services to create opportunities in the following areas.

● **Building strong Democratic Governance**

This entails the development of institutions and processes that are responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens and the poor. The UNDP builds partnerships and shares methods to promote participation, accountability, and effectiveness at all levels in society. More specifically, the UNDP helps to strengthen electoral and legislative systems, improve access to justice and public administration, and develop capabilities to deliver basic services to the most needy segments of the society.

● **Poverty Reduction: Generating Equitable Growth**

India has worked with the assistance of UNDP advocates and support to create its own national strategies, which are based on local needs and priorities. The UNDP provides support in:

funding for innovative pilot projects;

- providing knowledge and expertise to India about global best practices and resources;
- promoting the role of women in development; and
- bringing governments, civil society, and outside funding groups together to co-ordinate their efforts.

● **Crisis Prevention and Supporting Long-term Recovery**

The UNDP seeks to reduce the vulnerability to violent conflicts or natural disasters that can have the impact of destroying years of development resulting in further entrenchment of poverty and inequality. The UNDP searches for and shares new approaches to crisis prevention, early warning and conflict resolution. It also acts to bridge the gap between emergency relief and long-term development.

a Energy and Environment: Protecting the Planet

The UNDP focuses on this aspect for development because it believes that the link between energy and environment are critical for sustainable development, and the poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean and affordable energy sources. Furthermore, such issues cannot be resolved at national level alone. Issues, such as, climate change and ozone layer depletion require international co-operation. The UNDP assists to improve capacity to manage these challenges at all levels in society. It also searches for and shares knowledge on best practices, provides policy advice, and links partners through pilot projects in this area.

a Promoting Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The UNDP sees ICT as a powerful tool for participation of developed and developing countries in global markets; promotion of political participation and accountability; improvement of the delivery of basic services; and expanding local development opportunities. The UNDP assists by drawing on expertise and best practices from around the world to develop strategies that expand access to ICT and harness it for development. UNDP also relies on ICT solutions to make the most effective use of its own global network.

● **Gender Mainstreaming**

UNDP has a clear gender policy and has designed specific strategies to ensure that the organisational commitment to gender equality is reflected in the programmes that it supports as well as in its own

structures, systems, and practices. In this context, field offices have a clear framework to follow: on the basis of these guidelines local strategies are evolved. The experience of gender mainstreaming reflects disjuncture between global UNDP focus areas and government priorities: limited awareness of UNDP policy among programme staff; corporate policy not adequately reinforced by senior management; poor use of existing information, documents and tools for gender mainstreaming; weak database; and limited funds for mainstreaming.

The UNDP India identified the focus areas, which include gender mainstreaming as well as enhanced outreach, broad based resource mobilisation, building professional capacities, empowering management structures and strengthening inter-agency collaboration. The change process through public policy involves the dismantling and re-assembly of some structures, re-tooling of systems and re-deployment of human and financial resources. Thus, it offers the opportunity to experiment with gender innovations and strategies and build them into emerging new structures and systems.

● **Halting the spread of HIV/AIDS**

India's HIV/AIDS population is about 5.7 million. According to the UNAIDS report, India is the home to the highest number of HIV positive people in the world. (Sharma, May 2006). The UNDP works as a partner to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, and reduce its impact by mobilising all levels of government and civil society; advocating the placement of HIV/AIDS at the centre of planning and budgeting; assisting in building national capacity to manage initiatives in institutions and fields; traditionally considered outside the field of health; and encouraging a decentralised approach that supports community-level action. The UNDP assists national efforts by providing knowledge and resources, including best practices in dealing with the HIV/AIDS issue.

The UN Volunteers (UNVs) are working, especially on Greater Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) in India. In UNDP Regional Programme on HIV and Development, the UNVs are working to create regional platform and strengthen the voice of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) for advocacy and developing the capacity of PLWHA groups to influence HIV/AIDS policy development, prevention and care, and support responses. In this manner, they are involved in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and also in upscaling of this initiative. Thus, they are involved in:

- Devising a strategy for PLWHA Initiative;
- Identifying, selecting, and forging partnerships, and networking between UNDP and the Asia Pacific PLWHA groups;
- Providing appropriate technology and support to the groups, and follow-up with the UNDP country office for releasing funds to the partners; and
- Assisting in organising and conducting various regional meetings, and workshops on PLWHA issues and conduct training sessions on clinical aspects and treatment.

The UNVs are also trainers for those involved in HIV/AIDS programmes.

Co-ordinated HIV/AIDS/STI Response through Capacity Building and Awareness (CHARCA)-AD/IND/03/H14

A project has been formulated by the UNAIDS co-sponsors in India as a joint UN system response to reduce the risk of HIV infection among the vulnerable section of Indian society, especially adolescent girls. The CHARCA project was developed in collaboration with the UN Foundation and the World Economic Forum with assistance from the Netherlands, government. It is an attempt to develop a model for public-private partnership between the government, NGOs, and the UN system. The project will be implemented in six districts, that is, Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Kishanganj

(Bihar), Ballery (Karnataka), Aizwal (Manipur), Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Kanpur (UP). It aims to equip women, especially young girls, to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS and realise their rights, by reducing their vulnerability. The CHARCA also aims to build leadership, support networks and an enabling environment.

● **The UNDP also contributes to development through:**

- a) Production of annual Human Development Reports; and
- b) Assistance in capacity development

a) Human Development Reports: Policy-Making

The UNDP produces the annual Human Development Report (HDR), which focuses on key development issues, new measurement tools, innovative analysis, and policy proposals. These reports are very useful in measuring the performance and in influencing the development of new policies. The HDRs have emerged as the principal advocacy platform for sustainable human development.

Human Development Report 2005 takes stock of human development, including progress towards the MDGs. In addition to statistics, it highlights the human costs of missed targets and broken promises. Extreme inequality between urban and rural areas is identified as one of the main barriers to human development – and as a powerful brake on accelerated progress towards the MDGs.

The Human Development Resource Centre (HDRC), located in UNDP India is a centre of excellence. It is dedicated to human development, research, training, and advocacy. The HDRC provides technical assistance and advisory services for the preparation and follow-up of State Human Development Reports (SHDRs) in partnership with the Planning Commission, Government of India, and the respective state governments. These reports serve as platforms for public accountability and advocacy for action on the human development front in India. In 1995, the State of Madhya Pradesh has released the first sub-national State HDR. However, the other States like Assam, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab, Nagaland, Orissa and Gujarat have also brought out their SHDRs. In this process, the UNV is supporting the HDRC work by providing research and advisory support to the Tamil Nadu Human Development Research and Coordination Unit.

b) Capacity Development

Human Development Resource Centre

Here, capacity refers to the ability to perform functions; solve crucial problems; and to set and achieve desired goals. Thus, capacity development covers the sustainable creation, utilisation and retention of that capacity, which will serve to reduce poverty, improve self-reliance and the quality of vulnerable people's lives. However, the UNDP's involvement in this area seeks to build upon and leverage rather than replace indigenous capacity. According to the UNDP the main focus in capacity development is on promoting learning, boosting empowerment, building social capital, creating an enabling environment, integrating cultures, and orientating behaviour.

United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a project on 'Developing Community Drug Rehabilitation and Workplace Prevention Programme' in collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and International Labour Organisation (ILO). Its objective is to sensitise and train voluntary organisations on prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse at the workplace. In this regard, a number of corporate institutions have also volunteered their involvement in two projects.

Under the scheme for prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid up to 90 per cent to the eligible NGOs for extending services through counselling and awareness centres, de-addiction-cum-rehabilitation centres and for running awareness programmes. About 400 voluntary organisations are financially assisted for maintaining 450 centres in various parts of India. On an average about Rs. 25 crore is released annually for this scheme. An allocation of Rs. 140 crore is provided for this programme in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The efforts being made to prevent drug addiction are far too little as compared to the magnitude and dimensions of the problem. Most vulnerable target groups in remote areas are yet to be reached.

Elimination of Child Labour

The UN system supports various activities and programmes in this regard. Among these programmes the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), aims progressively to eliminate child labour through education, social mobilisation, and awareness raising; and legal enforcement and strengthening of institutional capacity. In this regard, 121 agreements have been signed so far for implementing action programmes under IPEC in India. In addition to IPEC, ILO has implemented the Child Labour Action Support Project (CLASP), which is aimed at enhancing the central government's planning and implementation capacity with regard to child labour. It also supports several ongoing projects of state governments and NGOs under the National Child Labour Projects in India.

In this area, joint initiatives within the UN system in India include Joint UN system Support for Community Based Primary Education. The participants include UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO and UNFPA. These initiatives aim at supporting government efforts on universal elementary education and making primary education more accessible and effective. They concentrate on disadvantaged and marginalised children. Other related joint UN initiatives include the UNICEF-ILO protocol regarding regular consultation and co-ordination on various aspects of child labour, the ILO and UNESCO Joint Convention on the status of Teachers, and collaboration between UNICEF and UNAIDS on the prevention of child trafficking along with UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNESCO.

A joint UN strategy on child labour supports the government's efforts to enhance its administrative, technical, and infrastructural capacity. Strategies of International Agencies to support India for working with the government include enhancing legal enforcement and providing policy support, besides facilitating coordination within the government. For example, in the case of eliminating Child Labour, under legal enforcement, the UN system would support the government concerned in formulating or reviewing child labour-related legislation. It also provides assistance to sensitise the official machinery, child workers, trade unions, and employers about child labour laws, and train officials regarding implementation of child labour legislation. The UN system's policy support would consist of facilitating the government's ratification of important international instruments on child labour. It also persuades public agencies in the implementation of policies and programmes in line with other instruments like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UN System would also facilitate convergence and co-ordination within the government by attempting to bring different nodal ministries/agencies to discuss child labour and related issues. Hence, it is evident that the UN system and specialised agencies contribute to the policy process in specific areas.

10.4 ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN POLICY-MAKING: ANALYSIS AND SUGGESTIONS

India has adopted MDGs and efforts are afoot to achieve these goals. In these efforts, international

agencies have also been supporting the government agencies in various ways. The results of the joint efforts of the government and international agencies are noted below.

- i) To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger the government has enacted, in 2006, the National Rural Employment Act (NREA). The Act guarantees a minimum of 100 days of remunerative work to those below the poverty line in the rural areas. The NREA is a positive step in India's efforts to reduce rural poverty.
- ii) Easing long-standing inequalities between women and men in education is one of the MDGs. In this regard, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for girls in secondary education indicates that the number has increased progressively from 32.1 in 1950-51 to 84.91 in 2003-04. It has been observed that the rate of increase in GER of girls is higher than that of boys, indicating that the gender gap in enrolment is declining. The drop-out rate of girls at primary level has also declined from 39.0 per cent in 2000-01 to 31.4 per cent in 2003-04. As on October 2005, the number of out of school children (boys and girls put together) was down to 95 lakh from 320 lakh in 2001. It is a significant achievement.
- iii) The child mortality rate has declined in India. The under 5-mortality rate (USMR) has decreased to 98 per thousand live births between 1998 and 2002. It is observed that the infant mortality rate (IMR) has also come down from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 60 per thousand in 2003. The proportion of one-year old children immunised against measles has increased from 42.2 per cent in 1992-93 to 58.5 per cent in 2002-03. The data reflects that progress is not up to the expected level.
- iv) In the new millennium, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has declined marginally. However, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has been continuously increasing, that is, from 25.5 per cent in 1992-93 to 39.8 per cent 2002-03, thereby reducing the chances of occurrence of maternal deaths.
- v) Although India has a low prevalence of HIV among pregnant women as compared to other developing countries, yet the prevalence rate has increased from 0.74 per thousand pregnant women in 2002 to 0.86 in 2003. This trend needs to be reversed to achieve the MDG in this respect.
- vi) Malaria and Tuberculosis (TB) represent a severe drain on national economy. However in India, the prevalence and death rates associated with malaria are consistently coming down. The death rate associated with TB has come down from 67 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990 to 33 per 100,000 population in the year 2003. The proportion of TB patients successfully treated has also raised from 81 per cent in 1996 to 86 per cent in 2003.
- vii) In the field of ensuring environmental sustainability, action to prevent further deterioration shows mixed results. The total land area covered under different forests has declined by about 20 per cent during the three decades preceding 2005, from about 26 per cent to about 19 per cent (2005). There have also been increasing threats to wild-life, and biodiversity in general. The energy use has declined consistently from 36 kilogram oil equivalent in 1991-92 to about 32 kilogram oil equivalent in the year 2003-04 to produce GDP worth Rs. 1000.
- viii) Developing a global partnership for development is basically meant for the developing countries since developed countries provide assistance to the former. India has supported the G8 initiative on irrevocable debt cancellation for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), which has now been adopted by IMF and the World Bank as the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).

In the context of global partnership for development, India has made substantial progress in achieving one of the targets, that is, cooperation with the private sector. In this regard, special efforts have

been made to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and technology. The overall tele-density has remarkably increased, from 0.67 per cent in 1991 to 9.4 per cent in June 2005. Use of Personal Computers has also increased from 5.4 million PCs in 2001 to 14.5 million in 2005.

The National Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Total Literacy Campaign of the National Literacy Mission, 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, provision of Reservation for Women, Commitment for Women Empowerment in the NCMP, National Health Mission, and Bharat Nirman are some of the important steps taken by the government which help in achieving the MDGs in India.

Policy Suggestions

To achieve the MDGs and for all-round development, following suggestions need to be followed with joint efforts of national and international agencies.

- i) To achieve the goal of eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, India must reduce by 2015 the proportion of people living below poverty line, that is, about 26 per cent (2000) to about 10 per cent.
- ii) To achieve universal primary education, India should increase the primary school enrolment rate to 100 per cent and wipe out the dropouts by 2015.
- iii) To ensure gender mainstreaming, efforts should be made at educational level to promote female participation at all levels to enable the country to reach an equal proportion of females and males especially for equal participation in development by 2015.
- iv) To reduce child mortality rate, serious efforts are required to expand the existing programmes that promote simple, services low-cost solutions.
- v) To reduce the level of maternal mortality, the Government of India should strengthen primary healthcare services including provision of trained medical and para-medical personnel.
- vi) In the case on HIV/AIDs, though new drug treatments prolong life, there is no cure for AIDS. In this regard, it is suggested that awareness-building and prevention efforts must be intensified in every region to achieve the targets.
- vii) Ensuring environmental sustainability requires greater attention to the plight of the poor whose day-to-day subsistence is often directly linked to the natural resources, and an unprecedented level of global cooperation. The proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation is to be halved by 2015. However, India is on the track to achieve this target. It is suggested that joint efforts should be enhanced in this regard.
- viii) To develop a global partnership, India should do more to ensure its own development, whereas the international agencies as well as the developed countries will have to extend greater support through aid, debt relief, and better opportunities for trade.

10.5 CONCLUSION

In this Unit, we have concentrated on the role of international agencies and its implications for policy-making in India. In this regard, we have exposed you to the role of specialised international agencies that are committed to achieve the MDGs in India. The first part of the Unit presented an overview and development approaches of the United Nations Organisations in Development. The second part of this Unit dealt with the major contributions of various international agencies. International Agencies provided a platform at the international level to enhance cooperation between countries; and provide guidance, and technical and financial assistance. They have also been

advocating the cause of the developing countries in various international fora, thereby enhancing the alternatives available to policy makers.

In the third part of this Unit, we have analysed the socio-economic development and MDGs achieved so far with the efforts of international agencies. Thus, the impact of the international agencies on the policy-making process can be seen in various sectors. Based on our analyses of the role of national and international agencies in achieving the MDGs, several suggestions were made to enable effective policy-making and efficient implementation.

The increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalising world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant limited space for national economic policy in the areas of trade, investment, and industrial development. In this regard, national policies have been increasingly influenced by international agreements and global market considerations. It is for the national (member) government to evaluate the trade-offs between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments, and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space. There should be an appropriate balance between national policy space on the one hand, and international commitments and considerations of the global market on the other.

10.6 KEY CONCEPTS

- Bharat Nirman** : It is a four-year project for rural infrastructure development. This project includes development of irrigation, road, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification, and rural telecommunication connectivity. In this regard, specific targets have been set to achieve the goals so that accountability can be maintained in the progress of development works.
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** : The government of India has launched the sarva shiksha abhiyan in the year 2000-01 to fill the gaps in elementary education, especially for children in the age group of 6-14 years. The Central government along with state governments, local governments, and community would work together to achieve the targets over a period of time. The goal is universalisation of elementary education through a time-bound action plan.

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10.8 ACTIVITIES

- 1) Describe the organisational overlay of various specialised international agencies. Select an area (MDG) of your choice, and discuss the impact of international agencies on policy-making in the selected area.
- 2) Identify the various international development agencies operating in India, and evaluate their role in policy-making process in India.
- 3) Visit the office of any international agency in India, and collect data about recent programmes of assistance. On the basis of this data, analyse the role of this agency in policy process:
- 4) Analyse the status of MDGs achieved in your area. Suggest remedial measures to improve the level of achievement.