

26 November 2002

**Statement of IS m 24**

A very important achievement of the International Year of Volunteers is the facilitation of volunteering through a number of measures. One of the principle areas has been the enactment of new, or strengthening of existing, legislation which will make the volunteer action in many countries easier. Also important in this respect were consultations on policy options and creation of new volunteer-support mechanisms and infrastructure such as volunteer centers, volunteer corps, national commissions as advisory bodies, national forums and so on.

Another achievement of the International Year of Volunteers was the involvement of non-traditional actors, such as the private sector. In addition, it engaged persons who might rather be associated with receiving of volunteer help such as older persons, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, or refugees. Their involvement and empowerment is of special significance.

The International Year of Volunteers also helped to build networks of volunteers, thereby giving the volunteers in individual countries a sense of inter-connective support and mutuality. It gave an opportunity for a number of meetings and organizing worksho( )ET EMC /P veaniz06>1 8.4ETBØ /MCDh