

# UN PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS

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## Anecdotes and Observations II

### The UN's Official Versions

This substantive section on UN Performance problems, the first of the IO Watch website, provides an ongoing archive of hundreds of quotes and sources from newspaper and newsmagazine articles, journals, books, and reports on UN performance shortcomings since 1945.

It begins with a Six-Decade Overview, followed by specific assessments and commentary on sixteen major areas of UN operations follow, which will each gradually be expanded into quite detailed chronological explorations of their topics.

A subsection of general Anecdotes and Observations then *inter alia* presents the lighter side and some of the absurdities of the otherwise rather depressing litany of UN performance problems.

Finally, in the interests of "comparison shopping" and full disclosure, and since this archive concentrates entirely on critical analyses and assessments of UN performance, the last subsection identifies websites where the reader can get The UN's Official Versions (the plural noun is not a typo) of its activities and performance record.

In particular, the last six performance problem subsections -- Humanitarian, Nation-Building, Development Aid, Human Rights, Women, and Work with NGOs, Others -- are very much still in the "start-up" stage, due to the priority need to establish all the parts of this archive. Material from the sources cited in the "useful sources" for each of them, and other material, will be added as soon as possible.

(For an explanation of the nature, rationale, and parameters of the quoted excerpts found throughout this archive, please see the explanatory information on IO Watch's Overview and Structure and on Rationale, Development, and Parameters .)

The following abbreviations of major UN organizations and entities appear throughout this archive:

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Advisory Committee on Coordination (heads of UN system agencies, recently retitled "Chief Executives Board for Coordination")
Board of Auditors	of the United Nations
CPC	Committee for Programme & Coordination
DAM	Department of Administration and Management (recently retitled the Department of Management, DM)
DPI	Department of Public Information
DPKO	Department of Peace-keeping Operations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
Fifth Committee	(Administrative and Budgetary) of the General Assembly
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OHRM	Office of Human Resources Management
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFP	World Food Programme