UNV Mandate

GA Resolution 1970: Foundation – focus on volunteerism

2. **Decides to establish within the existing framework of the United Nations system, with effect from 1 January 1971, an international group of volunteers**, the members of which shall be designated collectively and individually as United Nations Volunteers.

3. **Requests the Secretary-General**
   (a) To designate the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme as the Administrator of the United Nations Volunteers.
   
   (b) In consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to appoint a coordinator, within the framework of the Programme, to promote and co-ordinate the recruitment, selection, training and administrative management of the activities of the United Nations Volunteers within the United Nations system in collaboration with the United Nations agencies concerned and in co-operation with organizations dealing with national and international voluntary service and, where appropriate, with relevant youth organizations.

   **1918th plenary meeting, 7 December 1970. A/RES/26/59**

GA Resolution 1976: Promote the advancement of youth in development

1. **Considers the United Nations Volunteers programme to be a major operational unit of the United Nations for the execution of youth programmes, especially of pilot projects to increase the participation of youth in development activities and training programmes** for youth workers, such programmes to be undertaken only after consultation with the Governments of the recipient countries concerned.

2. **Decides to expand the terms of reference of the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers to include the receipt of additional contributions for the purpose of implementing youth programmes requested by developing countries.**

   **102nd plenary meeting, 16 December 1976. A/RES/31/131**

GA Resolution 2001: International Year of Volunteers

2. **Welcomes** the work of the **United Nations Volunteers as the focal point for the International Year of Volunteers** in supporting national International Year of Volunteers committees and in collecting and disseminating information on the Year, including through its web site.

6. **Neglecting to factor volunteering into the design and implementation of policies could entail the risk of overlooking a valuable asset and undermine traditions of cooperation that bind communities together.**

7. **It is important to ensure that opportunities for volunteering in all sectors are open both to women**
and men, given their different levels of participation in different areas, and recognizing the potential positive effect of volunteering on the empowerment of women.

1. (a) Increasing public awareness of the vital contribution of volunteerism to the social and economic functioning of their communities through, inter alia, public information activities and public events.

(c) Enabling fiscal, legislative and other frameworks, including for community-based organizations and not-for-profit organizations engaged in volunteering

(i) Introduce enabling legislation. The goal is to encourage or inspire citizens to volunteer but allow the choice to rest with the individual or organization; it can also facilitate employee volunteering. It can provide tax incentives and subsidies for organizations, as well as coverage and protection against risks, in a way fitting the particular society;

(ii) Facilitate partnership-building around volunteer-based activities of civil society, including arrangements for joint planning, implementation and monitoring. This could incorporate employee volunteer activities of the private sector.

(g) Integrating volunteerism into national development planning, recognizing the potential contribution of volunteerism to the achievement of sustainable development goals

(i) Extend the notion of volunteerism as an additional valuable component of national development planning to development cooperation policy. Recognizing and building strategically on rich, local traditions of voluntary self-help and mutual aid can open the way to building up a new constituency in support of development efforts. Forging a link in the mind of the general public in countries providing development assistance between domestic volunteering in those countries and volunteering in countries receiving assistance can also help enlist public support for development cooperation.

(h) Participation of all population groups

(i) Consider all means available for more people to become involved in voluntary activities and to be drawn from a broader cross-section of society, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities and persons belonging to minorities, targeting opportunities for voluntary activities to facilitate the active participation of those groups which have little or no access to the benefits of engaging in volunteering;

(ii) Promote volunteering within educational establishments and youth services; develop specific programmes to encourage youth volunteering; put in place systems to recognize and accredit volunteering by youth; and work with the media to present an attractive image of volunteering. This can have a significant impact on the level of youth participation and constitute a sound investment in a country’s human resources.

(e) Assisting in building national capacities, including in the field of training

(i) Assist countries, upon request, in building national capacities, including in the field of training, and further support Governments in their actions to promote volunteerism as a strategic tool to enhance economic and social development;

(ii) Recognize the continuing role of the United Nations Volunteers as the volunteer arm of the United Nations system, placing volunteers in development and humanitarian programmes and promoting
Build on the acquired experience of the United Nations Volunteers in enhancing the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteering, deriving from its role as focal point for the International Year of Volunteers.

76th plenary meeting, 5 December 2001. A/RES/56/38

GA Resolution 2002: Millennium Development Goals

Recognizing further that volunteering, particularly at the community level, will help to achieve the development goals and objectives set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at other major United Nations conferences, summits, special sessions and their follow-up meetings,

11. Requests the Secretary-General to factor such contributions made by volunteers in his reports on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and of other major United Nations conferences, summits, special sessions and their follow-up meetings;


For more information on the MDGs:
Report of the Secretary General: Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers (2005)

GA Resolution 2005: Support for corporate volunteering

Draft resolution IV on follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers would have the Assembly invite all stakeholders, especially from the private sector community and from private foundations, to support volunteerism as a strategic tool to enhance economic and social development. Further it would call upon relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate volunteerism into policies, programmes and reports, and encourage Governments to establish partnerships with civil society in order to build national volunteer potential at the national level.

Draft resolution IV was adopted.
Source: UN press release.

64th plenary meeting, 16 December 2005. A/60/PV.64
UNDP/UNV EB Decision 2006: Approved UNV Business Model AIM

8. Against this background, the UNV business model has been developed around the following three areas of intervention: (a) **Advocating** for volunteerism and development globally; (b) **Integrating** volunteerism in development planning; and (c) **Mobilizing** volunteers for peace and development. These areas are developed further in Chapter IV, under ‘Main characteristics’, with examples that illustrate their nature and relevance.

UNDP/UNV EB Decision 2008: Calls on UNV to contribute to environmental sustainability and the climate change agenda.

The UNDP Executive Board encouraged UNV to engage in climate change and environment sustainability. Decision 5 of 26 June 2008 notes that “the UNV programme can effectively contribute, at the community level, to addressing environmental sustainability, including climate change, and encourages the UNV programme to engage in community-level natural resources management and climate mitigation and adaptation activities.

57. Since **environmental** issues have direct impact at the community level, UNV expanded its global partnerships in this area. UNV and GEF-SGP are partnering with the UNDP global ‘**Community-based adaptation to climate change**’ project. At local level, in the ‘sustainable livelihoods through community volunteerism’ component of the UNDP-GEF ‘Tonle Sap Conservation Project’ in Cambodia, UNV supports community volunteers in reinforcing community participation, supporting linkages with environmental groups and promoting national ownership. Alternative local level, biodiversity-friendly, income-generating activities were also promoted.

55. Diversity in the UNV programme was reflected in various ways. First, geographic diversity in the origin and destination of the volunteers. Second, professional diversity in the UNV roster, with over 100 professional categories and over 200 types of assignments. Third, progress towards achieving gender balance among serving UNV volunteers. Fourth, opportunities for other groups to volunteer, such as youth and disadvantaged groups. A final aspect is the distribution against the UNDP practice areas; in 2006-2007, 37 per cent of UNV volunteers served in poverty reduction (including responding to HIV/AIDS); 14 per cent in democratic governance; 47 per cent in crisis prevention and recovery; and 2 per cent in energy and the environment.