

- 1970 March  
(cont.)
- December
- 1971 February
- March
- October
- 1972 January
- May
- June
- This pioneering effort leads to regional conferences, and Canada attends European one in Helsinki in 1972.
- General Assembly adopts Resolution GA/2749 (XXV) declaring the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction to be "the common heritage of mankind." It also decides to hold a Third Law of the Sea Conference.
- Seabed Treaty is open for signature. Drafted through the CCD in Geneva, its full name is "Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof." However, it allows emplacement within a country's 12-mile coastal zone (and nuclear-armed submarines to sit on the seabed).
- Deteriorating relations between West and East Pakistan culminate in tanks shelling Dhaka University. Civil war ends in December with invasion by Indian troops. U Thant sets up humanitarian programs of relief, but fails to mobilize Security Council into action; his offer of "good offices" to Pakistan and India is not taken up.
- General Assembly decides "to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China" and to expel the Taiwan government from all UN organizations (Resolution GA/2758 (XXVI)).
- Kurt Waldheim takes over as Secretary-General.
- UNDP starts a five-year cycle for development co-operation, through the IPF system: each developing country being given an Indicative Planning Figure of funds to be drawn upon.
- Soviet Union and United States sign SALT-I Accords. These consist of the ABM Treaty, limiting to two the number of anti-ballistic missile systems allowed—one around the capital and a second around a group of ICBM silos—; and an "interim agreement" halting construction of fixed land-based ICBM launchers and limiting numbers of ballistic missile submarines and their launchers. This is the last arms control treaty in nuclear field to be ratified by the U.S. Congress until 1988.
- George Davidson is appointed under-secretary-general in charge of the department of administration and management (remains until 1979).
- UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. Maurice Strong leaves CIDA presidency to