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NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I declare open the 1971 United Nations Pledging Conference on the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for this meeting appears in document A/CONF.53/L.1/Rev.2. If I hear no objection, may I consider that the Conference adopts the agenda?

It is so decided.

(Opening remarks by the Secretary-General)

Statement by the UNDP Administrator

I now give the floor to Mr. Paul Hoffman, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

/I now give

Statement by the Deputy Administrator of UNDP

I now give the floor to Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Deputy Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

Election of the President

The Conference will now elect its President. In accordance with the procedure followed in the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Conference last year, may I take it that the Conference would once more wish to proceed with these elections on the basis of a consensus reached among delegations; thus dispensing with the procedure of formal nominations and secondments?

(Pause)

I am informed that informal consultations among delegations have led to a general agreement to elect His Excellency Ambassador Siméon Ake, Permanent Representative of the Ivory Coast to the United Nations, as President of

/this

this Conference.

If I hear no objection, I shall declare His Excellency Mr. Siméon Ake of the Ivory Coast elected, by acclamation, President of the 1971 United Nations Pledging Conference on the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

I invite His Excellency to take the Chair.

(The Secretary-General may wish to
leave the podium)

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT ON THE OPENING OF THE 1971 UNITED NATIONS
PLEDGING CONFERENCE ON THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE
UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

1 NOVEMBER 1971

Mr. President,

In many parts of the world autumn is the time of bountiful harvest. Orchards, fields and farms have yielded the fruits of spring and summer toil while winter has yet to depress the spirit with its grey and chilling weight. It is a time of fulfilment and, thus a time well suited, I think, for the business we have at hand here today. For not only does a harvest measure the success of the past season's growth. Its size and quality can also determine the success of next year's planting. As every farmer knows, what can be set aside for putting back into the land is as important as what is reaped.

This Pledging Conference of the United Nations Development Programme is also a time when the seeds for next year's growth are laid aside -- a time when virtually every nation in the world can do something significant to help ensure that future harvests of skilled people, productive resources, and technological abilities in the low-income countries will not lag behind what is needed to meet the goals of the Second Development Decade. This occasion -- more than any other, I believe -- provides the opportunity for governments to rededicate themselves, in a concrete way, to the principles of international cooperation for international progress, prosperity and peace.

This year's Pledging Conference, moreover, has a special importance for three very different reasons. To begin with, it is the first time that pledges will be made in support of the United Nations Capital Development Fund simultaneously with those supporting the UNDP itself. The capital needs of the developing nations, in addition to their technical assistance and

pre-investment needs, are well-known. I, therefore, once again express my hope that all countries -- especially the economically advanced -- will contribute generously to the Capital Development Fund.

It is also the first time that resources will be pledged to a UNDP which has completely restructured itself in response to the new and changing demands of the development process. The Programme has always shown itself flexible in adapting to change. That flexibility provides fresh evidence that the Programme is capable of meeting the great challenges that lie ahead. It is evidence from which governments that support the UNDP can take much justifiable encouragement.

Finally, this is the last time that delegates to the Conference will have the honour and privilege of meeting with Mr. Paul Hoffman as the Administrator of UNDP. And although I am sure Mr. Hoffman would be the first to insist that the UNDP is dependent on no one man for its effectiveness, I should like to point out to the distinguished Administrator that this is true today largely because of one man's inspired leadership for more than a decade. Paul Hoffman will leave his post as chief executive of this organization in January with the knowledge that UNDP has come of age under his dedicated guidance and that it is capable of handling the increased responsibilities assigned to it in the global development drive.

Those of us who have been closely associated with the UNDP -- and with its predecessor organizations, the United Nations Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance -- have witnessed over the years a remarkable growth. Since 1959, voluntary financial contributions to the Programme have increased more than four-fold. More important, the annually

approved Programme of development work supported by the UNDP has grown from some \$115 million twelve years ago, to well over \$530 million in 1971. The commitment by low-income country governments to pay, on the average, over half the costs of UNDP-assisted projects has enabled the Programme to more than double what its own resources could accomplish both in the volume of services rendered and in the ever-widening range of its activities.

Indeed, it is difficult to think of any field of economic or social development that is not now affected by some of the many thousands of UNDP-supported projects. In virtually every key field of human endeavour -- from large-scale efforts at increasing agricultural and industrial productivity to smaller-scale projects aimed at decreasing the incidence of crime and drug abuse -- the UNDP is marshalling the expertise of the United Nations family of agencies to help shape and sustain a healthier, happier and more enlightened world.

There is another measure of growth in the UNDP system which -- because it concerns the future rather than the past -- should perhaps concern us most. This is the increased amount of development work which the low-income countries both need and are capable of carrying out with UNDP and participating agency cooperation over the next few years. Reliable projections indicate that, by 1976, the low-income countries will be capable of mounting a UNDP-supported field programme worth \$1,000 million. It is with this growing capability in mind -- as well as with the enlarged opportunities for progress which it signifies-- that Paul Hoffman has called 1976 the critical target date for reaching a goal of \$500 million in voluntary contributions. I fully support his assessment. And I hope that the pledges made today for 1972 will prove to be a long first step towards attaining that goal.

Mr. President, representatives of more than 120 nations have gathered here to pledge support for one of the most broadly-based coalitions against human misery and want that the world has ever known. This is, as I have said, the season of golden harvest in those all too few countries where poverty is the exception rather than the norm. May I express my confidence that, by the actions taken here today, the time will be measurably hastened when every nation will experience its own golden harvest in good season.

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