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Foreword

The past decade has been a decade of the people. The forces of democracy are spreading across many lands. New markets are springing up in former command economies, unleashing the creativity and productivity of their people. With free enterprise winning out over central planning, and the courageous voices of democracy quieting the terrors of authoritarianism, people everywhere are asserting their right to determine their own destiny.

But democracy is more than drawing up constitutions, designing new election procedures or holding elections as one-time events. Democracy is a way of life. It is a long-term process of reorganizing the institutions of a civil society. For some countries, the process is painful—involving political unrest, civil strife, even war. And many of today's struggles are more than struggles for access to political power. They are for access to the ordinary opportunities of life—land, water, work, living space and basic social services.

What is impressive is the great determination of people to participate in the events and processes that shape their lives. No more impersonal commands from above. Instead, a search for participatory patterns of development. No more directives from a distant centre. Instead, a demand for decentralization of power. No more stifling regulations from an all-powerful state. Instead, an urge to liberate human enterprise.

What is even more impressive is that even the severest hardships are not turning people away from their newly won econom-

ic and political freedoms. Just look at the sheer determination of the people in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union—in the face of high inflation, falling output, rising unemployment, and the removal of long-enjoyed subsidies. And look, too, at the determination of people throughout the developing world to go through their own democratic and economic transitions, to scale back their overextended public sectors, to meet their human development needs.

The challenge for the development community in all this is to identify practical and pragmatic options. The best route is to unleash people's entrepreneurial spirit—to take risks, to compete, to innovate, to determine the direction and pace of development.

It is fitting, therefore, that this year's *Human Development Report* has people's participation as its special focus. As the Report stresses, we have to redefine our concept of security as security for people, not security for land. We have to weave development around people, not people around development. And we have to ensure that development cooperation focuses directly on people, not just on nation-states.

The *Human Development Report* has, since its introduction in 1990, become a tradition in contributing to the international development debate. For this, I must thank the Report team and especially Mahbub ul Haq, my Special Adviser and the Report's chief architect.

The views set forth in this Report have emerged from the team's professional,

frank and candid analysis of the issues. They do not necessarily reflect the views of UNDP, its Governing Council or other member governments of UNDP. The usefulness of a report such as this continues to depend on its professional indepen-

dence and intellectual integrity.

I am confident that this year's Report will again make a major contribution to the development dialogue by offering a new vision for the future of human development.



New York
March 17, 1993

William H. Draper III

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ABBREVIATIONS

DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EC	European Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HDI	Human development index
IDA	International Development Association
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDER	World Institute for Development Economics Research

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