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Foreword

Behind the blaring headlines of the world's many conflicts and emergencies, there lies a silent crisis—a crisis of underdevelopment, of global poverty, of ever-mounting population pressures, of thoughtless degradation of environment. This is not a crisis that will respond to emergency relief. Or to fitful policy interventions. It requires a long, quiet process of sustainable human development.

Sustainable human development is development that not only generates economic growth but distributes its benefits equitably; that regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; that empowers people rather than marginalizing them. It is development that gives priority to the poor, enlarging their choices and opportunities and providing for their participation in decisions that affect their lives. It is development that is pro-people, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women.

It is a great contribution of the *Human Development Reports* that they have stimulated international dialogue on such models of development. The 1994 Report continues this tradition and takes it a step further. It explores the new frontiers of human security in the daily lives of the people. It attempts to discover early warning signals that can spur preventive diplomacy and preventive development in order to save a society from reaching a crisis point. It outlines a new design for development cooperation in the post-cold war era. And it suggests a concrete agenda for the consideration of the World Summit for Social Development that is to meet in Copenhagen in March 1995.

The forthcoming Social Summit offers us a unique opportunity to redefine humanity's development agenda. The Summit will be a time to respond to the new compulsions of human security. It will be a time to reiterate very clearly that without the promotion of people-centred development none of our key objectives can be met—not peace, not human rights, not environmental protection, not reduced population growth, not social integration. It will be a time for all nations to recognize that it is far cheaper and far more humane to act early and to act upstream than to pick up the pieces downstream, to address the root causes of human insecurity rather than its tragic consequences.

From such a diagnosis, it follows that the role of the United Nations must be strengthened significantly in the development field. The peace agenda and the development agenda must finally be integrated. Without peace, there may be no development. But without development, peace is threatened.

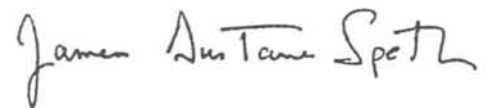
There is an urgent need today to establish a more integrated, effective and efficient UN development system to promote the worldwide movement towards sustainable human development. For this purpose, the UN system requires a clearer mandate, integrated policy frameworks and additional resources.

It is our principal goal to restructure and strengthen UNDP so that it can make a critical contribution to these new imperatives of sustainable human development—from assisting countries in the formulation of their own development strategies, to help-

ing donor nations reflect this new development perspective in their aid allocations, to launching global policy initiatives for new designs of development cooperation, to working closely with other UN development programmes and agencies in identifying common missions and complementary approaches so as to help our member countries realize their sustainable human development goals. In other words, we are now poised in UNDP to move from the basic messages of the *Human Development Reports* to their concrete operationalization.

It is in this spirit that I present the *Human Development Report 1994* to the in-

ternational community. As always, the views set forth in this Report have emerged from the candid, professional analysis of an eminent team working under the able guidance of Mahbub ul Haq, my Special Adviser and the Report's chief architect. They do not necessarily reflect the views of UNDP, its Executive Board or other member governments of UNDP. We have always respected the intellectual independence and professional integrity of these Reports. But there is no question in my mind that the Report will exercise a profound influence on global policy dialogue and on UNDP's future operations.



James Gustave Speth

New York
March 16, 1994

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ABBREVIATIONS

DAC	Development Assistance Committee
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
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
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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