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UN DAY 2000 United Nations 55th Anniversary



Photos by Mkhitar Khachatryan

See the commemoration details on pages 8-9.

THE OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

The largest ever world gathering of Heads of State and/or Government was a real event in the history of the 55 year-old United Nations Organization. 99 Heads of State (including 1 non-member State, Switzerland), 48 Heads of Governments, 5 Vice-Presidents, 1 Crown Prince, 2 Highest-ranking Officials (Holy See and Palestine), 6 Deputy Prime Ministers, 21 Ministers and 7 Chairmen of Delegations participated in the three-day Millennium Summit, several round-table discussions, briefings that took place in New York from 6-8 September this year. 82 State leaders committed themselves to sign under multilateral treaties that were deposited with the Secretary General.

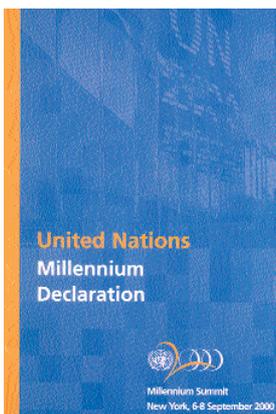
But the most important outcome of the global summit was the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, which was truly named as a landmark document for a new century.

This Declaration was developed over months of talks, with consideration given to the regional hearings and Millennium Forum that allowed people's voices to be heard.

In the Declaration, the world leaders have given clear directions for adapting the Organization to the new century. They are concerned, rightly, with the effectiveness of the United Nations. They want action and, above all, results. But ultimately, it is the leaders themselves who are the United Nations. It lies within their power, and therefore it is their responsibility, to reach the goals that they have defined.

For the full text of the Millennium Declaration please visit the URL address:

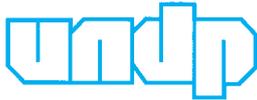
<http://www.un.org/millennium/index.html>



International Year for the Culture of Peace



2000



UNDP APPROVES SECOND CCF FOR ARMENIA

On 29 September 2000, at its 3rd Regular Session 2000, UNDP Executive Board approved the second Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) for Armenia. Like the first Cooperation Framework that covered the period 1997 - 1999, the second CCF for 2000 - 2004 was prepared jointly with the Government of Armenia, in consultation with all development partners of the country. During the CCF period, UNDP intends to gear its interventions to supporting national development goals and assist Armenia in its efforts to overcome the adverse effects of transition and set the path to comprehensive development. In this regard, UNDP plans to (1) support the Government in fighting the rising poverty and unemployment levels, (2) support the ongoing government reform processes to enhance its efficiency, increase transparency and decrease corruption; and (3) support the Government in promoting gender equity in the public ser-

vice and (4) contribute to the implementation of the national environmental action plan.

Along with the main crosscutting themes - gender and environment - will be mainstreamed in all UNDP interventions, two major programme areas have been delineated in the CCF for the coming years: (a) good governance and (b) poverty reduction and post-conflict rehabilitation

Each of the programme areas comprises two sub-programmes:

- improvement of governance through the use of information and communication technologies,
 - consolidation of democracy through capacity building
- and*
- elaboration of a national strategy for poverty reduction and social development,
 - capacity building for post-conflict rehabilitation.

ARMENIAN NHDR RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Armenian National Human Development Report 1999 entitled **"Five Years of Human Development"** received two excellence awards at the Second Global Forum On Human Development held on 9 - 10 October 2000 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The 5th and jubilee Armenian NHDR was awarded for **"Participation and Policy Impact"** and for **"Innovative Use of Human Development Measurement Tools"**.

Armenia has been publishing National Human Development Reports since 1995. The themes of NHDRs were 1995 - *Human Cost of Transition*, 1996 - *Poverty*, 1997 - *Social Cohesion*, 1998 - *Role of the State*. The success and recognition of 1999 NHDR build on the findings and conclusions of the previous reports which were analytically reflected in its respective chapters.

The Second Global Forum on Human Development focused on Human Rights and brought together over 250 leading academics, policy-makers and development and human rights activists who met to discuss and examine the implications of the UNDP Human Development Report 2000. The report, which centered on human rights and human development, served as an impetus for participants to identify new research areas and suggest policy changes to implement the Report's main proposals worldwide. The Forum was organized by UNDP's Human Development Report Office and its Brazil country office, in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency, Candido Mendes University and the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs.

Among other NHDRs awarded for outstanding achievement were those produced by Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Latvia, Lebanon, Mozambique and the Philippines.



ARMENIAN HI-TECH DIRECTORY

The wealth of the national scientific and research potential of Armenia is reflected in the *Armenian Hi-Tech Directory* published in October 2000. The *Hi-Tech Directory* was prepared in the framework of ITC-supported project "Export Development and Promotion" by a team of independent experts. This publication follows *Armenia Export Directory* that was published in 1999 as the first ever attempt to introduce the Armenian export potential. The objective of the publication of the *High-Tech Directory* is to support, to the

extent possible and in the framework of UNDP opportunities, the remarkable scientific and technological potential of Armenia, and give tribute to the role the science and the knowledge have in the Armenian economy and society. The publication is also very much in line with the objectives and programmes of UNDP second Country Cooperation Framework covering the years 2000 - 2004, whereby we endeavor to put information and communication technologies at service of information society and democratic governance.

The United Nations Coordinator System in Armenia and the School of Public Administration of the Republic of Armenia organized a First National Workshop of Young Researchers of Gender/Women Studies “**The Millennium Generation**” on 6 October 2000, at the UN House Conference Hall in Yerevan.

The Workshop had the overall goal of establishing a forum of young specialists active in gender/women studies in Armenia. Strategically, the Workshop aimed at ensuring continuity of gender studies in Armenia and raising a new cohort of

young researchers/specialists in this area.

Among other objectives of the Workshop were identifying the capacity of Armenian young researchers on gender/women studies and encouraging their initiatives; assessing the efficiency of education and development of young generation of researchers on gender studies by national institutions of higher learning and research centers in Armenia; raising public awareness on gender/women’s issues in the Armenian society, promoting active participation of young people in the Beijing +5 national follow-up, and fostering the process of information exchange and networking between young researchers.

The workshop brought together young specialists interested in gender/women studies from all over the country. About 20 studies/reviews were presented and the primary attention was paid to the presentation of the studies conducted by young specialists during the last two years.

The workshop helped identify a wealth of expertise available in the country that could potentially be engaged by the UN system in studies and research associated with various aspects of development, primarily poverty assessment and analysis.

Workshop included panels with topics on: gender issues in employment and economic activity; gender issues in participation in the decision-making and power; and reflecting gender roles and portrayals in culture. The topics of the Workshop are of highest priority for Armenia and of international concern at large. In particular, the Millennium Report of Secretary General mentioned that major source of income inequality within countries is gender discrimination in wages, property rights and access to education.

The proceedings of the Workshop will be published as a book entitled “Gender Studies: Student’s Papers” including best works of young researchers on gender studies.



Photo by Armine Hlalajyan

MENDING SOCIAL FABRIC OF ARMENIA

On 22 September 2000, 10 communities in Shirak region (northwest Armenia) opened the doors of a new health centre fully rehabilitated in the framework of UNDP “Integrated Support to Sustainable Human Development” programme. The health centre has an outdoor and a maternity ward, is equipped with a completely revamped heating system, basic furniture and medicines (the latter courtesy of United Methodist Church of Relief).

The health centre, located in Aghin village, will render services to about 8 – 10 thousand residents of poorest communities in the region. For over a decade, the people residing in this disaster-struck area were deprived of an access to adequate basic health care services. The situation changed for the better with operationalisation of the new health centre which so far is the largest one rehabilitated with UNDP support.

The course of the communities’ life was not late to respond to the major event. The very day of the inauguration, 4 pregnant women were delivered to the new centre

and 4 babies were born. Under the deteriorating demographic conditions and the controversy of reproductive health and family planning issues in Armenia, UNDP has been there to ensure that in at least some parts of the country, there is a way for the people who make their choice for continuing having children, new lives are welcome and properly taken care of.

This 17th rehabilitated facility is a part of a large-scale social rehabilitation sub-programme implemented by UNDP in Shirak, Tavoush, Lori and Syunik regions. Overall, by the end of 2000 the total of 22 health care facilities will be fully restored to their initial capacity to service more than 70,000 people in 40 communities in the 4 regions of Armenia most affected by the earthquake and military conflict. This sub-programme, a part of a US\$2.9 million programme on “Integrated Support to Sustainable Human Development,” is a complementary effort to the Health Sector Reform and decentralization policy of the Government of Armenia.

DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

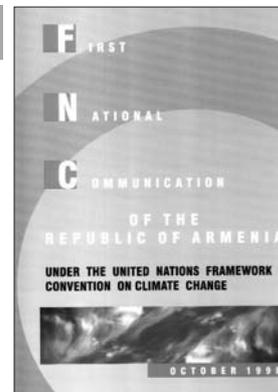
On 10 – 12 October 2000, environmental experts and government officials from Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Slovenia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan gathered in Yerevan to discuss experiences and challenges of preparation of national reports in the framework of one of the key international instruments for environmental protection – the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Workshop entitled “Regional Exchange Workshop on National Communications” aimed to provide opportunities to discuss national and regional priorities for improving national reports on climate change.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- to identify options for improving the technical studies required for preparation of national reports;
- to suggest ways for improving the process of the preparation of national reports;

- to identify priorities for technical assistance needs.

Armenia prepared its first National report on Climate Change in December 1998 at a Conference of Parties in Buenos Aires. The report and the Country Study on Climate Change were prepared in the framework of a project financed by the Global Environmental Facility and implemented with support of UNDP by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Armenia was one of the first countries to submit its national report which was very highly assessed by the Secretariat of the Climate Change Convention and the Global Environmental Facility.





WFP CHAIRS "DROUGHT RELIEF TASK FORCE"

WFP initiated a "Drought Relief Task Force" consisting of UN Agencies, the Red Cross and NGO's in September to coordinate the drought assistance.

The Drought Task Force Meeting held on 6 November, established 4 subgroups in order to discuss the following issues separately: (a) School Feeding, represented by the European Commission Food Security Programme, UNICEF, UMCOR, USAID, CRS, the Norwegian Refugee Council and WFP; (b) Agriculture, led by USDA and UNDP; (c) Drought Relief Programmes represented by the Armenian Red Cross, GTZ, Mission East, Secours Populaire Français, Caritas Armenia, CRS, IFRC, Save the Children, Accion contra El Hambre and American Red Cross; and (d) Food-for-Work represented by UNDP, UNHCR, GTZ, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, Shen, Armenian Red Cross, Mission East, Secours Populaire Français, Caritas Armenia, Accion contra El Hambre and WFP.

(a) School feeding

Pending the final approval by US authorities, a school feeding programme implemented by school councils will soon start reaching 120,000 school kids in regular schools and institutions. More than 3,300 tons of food commodities will be allocated. Biscuits will be cooked in selected bakeries all around the country.

CRS has announced about a school feeding programme for 6,000 school kids in Gegharkunik Marz and Yerevan. UMCOR plans to start a school lunch programme targeting 100 boarding schools. The Food Security Programme of the European Union is planning to finance 7 to 8 schools in 2001 with USD 1 million in order to support them with all food-related expenses excluding staff salaries.

(b) Agriculture

The Armenian Technology Group and USDA have reported the successful completion of a winter wheat seed distribution programme to farmers in the most drought-affected regions of Lori, Shirak and Tavush. Some 1,700 tons of seeds were distributed in time for sowing more than 10,000 hectares of land.

(c) Drought Relief Programmes

UMCOR has reported about a USAID-funded social transition pro-

gramme to start in mid-December. Some 84,000 drought-affected households in rural as well as in urban areas will be targeted using PAROS. Each household will be given a two-month food ration consisting of 3kg of wheat flour, 1 kg of oil and 1/2 kg of sugar. The implementing partner is Mission Armenia.

(d) Food-for-Work (FFW)

This year, WFP has received more than a thousand FFW project proposals of which about half were rejected, the main reason being that poor communities have been unable to provide for inputs indispensable for project implementation. WFP will reconsider the rejected project proposal package to identify those relating to enhancing the agricultural infrastructure coming from the northern drought-affected marzes.

WFP has initiated this subgroup to identify co-partners, local and international, who would be interested in providing inputs for such projects and in FFW project identification.

WFP has made it clear that the work norms used for the FFW projects under its regular program will not be applied *en riguer* for the FFW projects under the Emergency Operation since in the latter case the foremost priority for WFP is to provide food assistance to people left without any food and only then to give the food against some activity implemented by the food recipients.

WFP REGIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS ARMENIA



Photo provided by WFP

The WFP Regional Director for West Asia and the Caucasus Mr. Michael Sackett visited Armenia from October 26-30 within the programme of a tour to the countries of the region plagued by this summer's drought. On the day of his arrival Mr. Sackett gave a press conference on WFP's planned activities in Armenia to address the nutrition needs of people who suffered from this summer's drought.

According to WFP, some 297,000 subsistence farmers as well as other victims of the drought will need emergency food assistance from the end of November until end of June. WFP has planned an Emergency Operation (EMOP) to cover drought-related food needs in addition to food assistance provided to another 170,000 beneficiaries under its current programme. To implement this Emergency Operation, WFP/Armenia will need some 22,500 tons of food.

The relief component of the current programme targets urban vulnerable households, and refugees. The Emergency Operation for the drought victims will be complementary to the ongoing programme in targeting relief distribution to an additional 176,000 beneficiaries. Another 121,000 beneficiaries will receive drought relief food by participating in food-for-work and food-for-training activities.

Considering the climatic conditions, wherever possible, WFP will implement FFW activities during

November/December 2000 and the majority of food-for-training (FFT) activities for subsistence farmers during the winter of 2000-2001. However, as during the harsh winter months, few FFW activities can be executed and also as roads may become impassable, relief food assistance will be given to the majority of beneficiaries from November 2000 until February 2001.

From 1 March until 30 June 2001, relief food assistance will be provided only to the single elderly, disabled, female-headed households and other vulnerable groups unable to participate in FFW/FFT.

The drought in the country has resulted in an extraordinarily difficult situation with its consequences being significantly worse than initially assessed. According to the Government, agriculture has suffered approximately US100 m dollars in losses. Grain crops are less by 100,000 tons and potato losses amount to some 90,000 tons.



WHO

PROGRAMME OF IMMUNIZATION

Continuous assistance has been provided to the prevention and control of Health for All target Communicable Diseases. The National Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) was further harmonized and strengthened.

Armenia supported the global initiative on polio eradication and engaged in its active implementation since 1994. Through the following years a huge work was performed and significant achievements were reached under leadership of the WHO Regional Office for Europe and with the assistance of the international community. Jointly with other countries, Armenia was successfully conducting a wide-scale MECACAR and MECACAR-PLUS operations, showing a bright example of unprecedented collaboration between European and Eastern-Mediterranean Regions.

In Armenia, still endemic in terms of polio in the recent past, no single case of this severe disease was registered since June 1995, and we hope that the circulation of wild poliovirus is forever stopped in the country. Since 1996 epidemiological surveillance on Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) was introduced and successfully implemented in Armenia, which is of primary importance at the final stage of polio eradication. The EPI achieved and currently maintains a high level of routine vaccination of children against polio, as well as high level of vaccinations during National Immunization Days and mopping-up campaigns.

In July 2000 Armenia submitted to WHO Regional Office for Europe documentation on the certification of the country as a polio-free zone.

- On 11-13 October 2000, in Chisinau, Moldova, the Meeting of European Regional Certification Commission on Polio Eradication, reviewed certification documentation submitted by 6 countries and recognized prominent results

achieved in Armenia: high efficiency of the programme on immunization and AFP surveillance. The Commission expressed its hope that the achieved results will be maintained.

- On 14 October 2000, again in Chisinau, an Annual Meeting of National EPI Managers was convened, during which measles control and elimination strategies were discussed: the three countries of the Region, including Armenia, submitted draft national plans.

- On 6-7 November 2000, Copenhagen – WHO held an Informal Consultation on Measles Eradication in the European Region. Armenia's EPI Manager, the only expert from the NIS, took part in the capacity of WHO temporary adviser in this meeting.

WHO MISSIONS ON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

27-31 October, 2000 – Dr. Guido Sabatinelli and Dr. Anatoli Kondrachine, to evaluate malaria control activities carried out in 2000 and provide technical assistance to the planning of malaria control activities for 2001.

7-8 November, 2000 – Dr. Rizards Zaleskis, to assess the current TB situation in the country and plan further activities.

▣ 11-14 September 2000 - The 50th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe was convened in Copenhagen. The Session discussed and adopted resolutions on the Report of the Regional Director, Report on eradication of poliomyelitis, the Regional Office's future country strategy, Impact of food and nutrition on public health, other matters. The Session was attended by Dr. Mkrchian, Minister of Health of Armenia.

▣ 3-5 November 2000 - The fourth meeting of the expert network on health care reform strategies in Southern Europe (SOUTHNET) was convened in Yerevan. Representatives of 9 countries participated in the meeting.



IOM DIRECTOR GENERAL VISITS ARMENIA

The Director General of International Organization of Migration, Mr. Brunson McKinley concluded a successful two-day visit to Armenia on October 25th. Mr. McKinley met with representatives and officials of the Republic of Armenia including President Robert Kocharyan, Prime Minister Andranik Margarian, Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian and the Head of the Department of Migration and Refugees Gagik Yeganian. Mr. McKinley also visited IOM projects and initiatives. In St. Echmiadzin he met with the Catholicos of All Armenians, Garegin II.

The purpose of Mr. McKinley's visit was to discuss issues of mutual interest to the Government of Armenia and IOM, and to familiarise himself with migration-related issues that the country is faced. As a result of Mr. McKinley's visit a common understanding has been reached on the following:

Migration management

✓ *The Cluster Proposal:* IOM will actively pursue the convening of a meeting before the end of the year between countries of destination and countries of origin, including the Republic of Armenia to discuss a framework of cooperation and activities to prevent irregular migration and facilitate the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants.

✓ *Capacity Building in Migration Management:* IOM and the Government of Armenia will review and update the current agreement to chart the way forward on this important programme with a view to signing a new agreement before the end of the year.

✓ *Prevention of trafficking in migrants:* Following the completion of research on the nature and incidence of trafficking in migrants from Armenia this year, IOM and the Government of Armenia will consider measures to prevent and reduce migrant trafficking, including an information campaign.

✓ *Migration Information:* IOM will consider measures to assist the Government of Armenia in having reliable data on migration flows. In this context IOM has already made an assessment and recommendations to the Government of Armenia with a view to IOM supporting an expanded border management information system in line with good international practices.

✓ *Capacity Building of Migration Sector NGOs:* IOM will continue to pursue the support of this activity, particularly in the context of its counter-trafficking project and in the regions.

Micro-enterprise development

✓ IOM will actively pursue the expansion of this effective project as means for the integration and self-sufficiency of qualifying refugees, displaced people, returning migrants and low income families.

Post conflict work

✓ *Preparations following a resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh issue:* IOM and the Government of the Republic of Armenia will continue discussions to prepare for potential "post-conflict" programmes in the event of a political solution agreed to by the parties concerned.

Services to Armenian citizens in the Diaspora

✓ IOM will provide information to the Government of Armenia on IOM's experience in this field with other diaspora communities and discuss the possibility of cooperation in this area.

REPORT ON ASSESSMENT OF BORDER MANAGEMENT IN ARMENIA

Between the end of May and September 2000, within the framework of IOM and the Government of Armenia's Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme, IOM organised an international expert's assessment of visa, entry/exit and border management information processes in Armenia with a view to provide recommendations for the facilitation of bona fide travelers, the prevention of illegal migration and a border management information system compatible with good international practices. The report was published and disseminated in October. The report makes 67 recommendations for improvement and provides a concrete road map for activities to be undertaken in a 24-month period, including legislative, procedural, technological and training aspects. IOM will assist the government in implementing the recommendations and cooperate with other interested international bodies. Implementation of the recommendations is highly relevant to the Republic of Armenia in the following ways.

1. Over the last one year, the volume of emigration from the country has emerged as a major issue concerning the people, media and government. While population retention is generally beyond the scope of border management, an enhanced migration information system is within. Border statistics is one of the three sources of migration information and implementation of the recommendations will extend the border management system to land borders, in a manner consistent with good international practices.

2. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Armenia and the member states of the European Union express Armenia's readiness to cooperate in order to control and prevent illegal immigration. At the same time the recognition of tourism as a potential growth sector for Armenia highlights the need for striking the right balance between border control and facilitation. The report in its section on visa issuance and the inspection process addresses this issue and makes recommendations consistent with good international practice.

MIGRATION SECTOR NGO DEVELOPMENT

In October a seminar was organized by Armenian Sociological Association to discuss and disseminate the results obtained in the eight small projects funded on irregular migration and migrant health themes. This is a part of IOM's aim to develop capacity in the NGO sector to address migration concerns. A report has been compiled and given to the Department of Migration and Refugees and concerned international organizations. The main outcomes have been as follows:

Irregular Migration

Armenian Young Lawyers Association gathered information on transit migration through Armenia and developed a database listing stranded migrants. It disseminated information via flyers and consultation to citizens in the regions on the migration legislation of common destination countries so that people were aware of the real situation. The NGO Union of Shirak Region and *Aren Social and Psychological Center* did a survey in Gyumri on the causes and nature of migration. It found for 88% of migrants the destination is Russia, 8% Western Europe and 4% the United States. The survey found that 39% of migrants were men in the working age group and 28% women in the same age group. The remainders were children (30%) and elderly (4%). The organizations *Business Woman* and *Zartonk 89* surveyed 300 migrant women. Over 50% went abroad for lowly skilled jobs and 23% for petty trade. Six percent were engaged in sex work. Of those who went abroad, 40% have done so through intermediaries. The majority found their services unsatisfactory or felt cheated. Fifteen percent had prior employment contracts of which over half were later violated by employers. The main violations were related to a change in the kind of job offered and lower wages. In spite of the hardships, just over half of the women considered their sojourn abroad as successful and a quarter registered an increase in their living standards. A psychologist provided telephone counseling to callers. 245 calls were received out of which 64% were diagnosed as having posttraumatic stress disorders.

Migrant Health

Future Generation NGO directed a health education campaign on reproductive and women's health issues in four villages in Vardenis region having a number of refugees and families having migrants away. Awareness building was carried out on access to birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and domestic violence. A pre and post project survey showed a marked change in awareness and attitude among the women in the villages. The women were also given access to a diagnostic gynecological health check-up and treatment. *Mission Armenia* and the *Armenian Charitable Foundation on Population Development* trained health workers and raised awareness among community leaders on reproductive and women's health issues to benefit refugees living in communal centers in Echmiadzin. 226 women had access to a diagnostic gynecological health check-up and treatment if necessary. 258 refugees were given access to psychological counseling. The NGO "*Hope and Help*" established a Trust Center where sex workers had access to information on HIV/AIDS prevention as well as condoms and hygiene packs. 162 sex workers visited the Center. 39% mentioned having worked abroad, mostly in the UAE and Turkey. 17% mentioned having contracted an STD in the last two years, 22% mentioned that they did not suffer from any STD and 61% provided no answer.

JOINT VISITS TO BORDER CROSSING POINTS

In November UNHCR and IOM made joint visits, accompanied by border, visa and refugee officials, to six ports of entry in Armenia. The purpose of the visits have been to assess the situation in the ports of entry concerning the admissibility of asylum seekers, immigration control and record keeping and to explain to border and visa personnel the 1951 Refugee Convention that Armenia has ratified, the Armenian Refugee law as well as international good practices in entry and exit control.

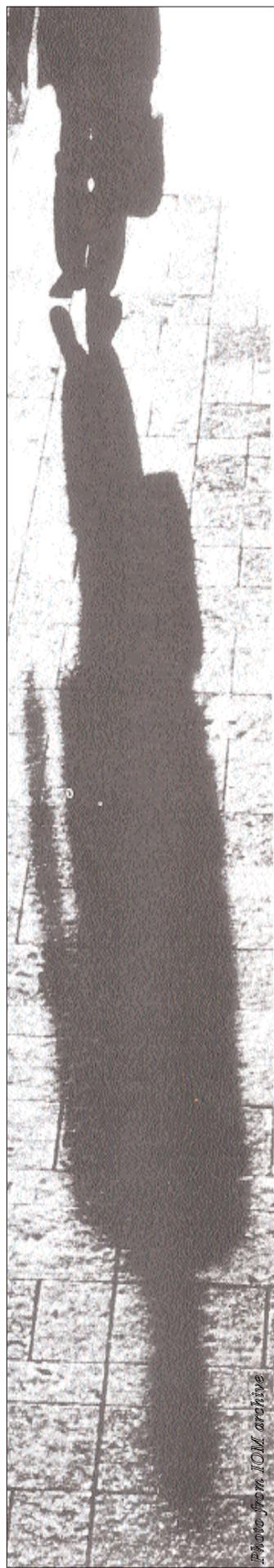


Image from IOM archive

UN DAY 2000 - United Nations 55th Anniversary

UN AGENCIES' JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE



Photo by Armine

DPI organized a press conference with the participation of all the UN agencies and IOM dedicated to the UN Day and to the other UN observances (Food Day, Poverty Eradication Day). DPI Representative Mr. V.Tkatchouk briefly talked about the recent Millennium events and the commemoration activities

for the upcoming UN Day. The last issue of the UN Bulletin was also launched. WFP made use of this opportunity to give details on the recent FAO/WFP drought report on Armenia. Participants were: the DPI, UNHCR and WFP Representatives, staff workers from UNDP and UNFPA, IOM Head of Mission. Information materials (booklets, leaflets, press releases - SG's messages on Food Day and Poverty Eradication) were free at hand for the journalists.

“The problem of hunger is particularly acute in the developing world. One in five people in developing countries do not have access to food of sufficient quality. In Africa, a one out of three child suffers from chronic malnutrition. Overall, 6 million pre-school children die every year as a result of hunger.

To make this new millennium free from hunger, we must take action urgently on many fronts, not just to feed the hungry, but to eliminate the underlying causes of hunger. Ending hunger and food insecurity is not simply a matter of growing more food. Recent studies have shown that four out of five malnourished children in the developing world live in countries that boast food surpluses. The larger short-term challenge is to make sure that food gets into the hands and the mouths of those who need it now — the poor, women and young girls, isolated rural communities, ethnic minorities living on the economic margins of society, and victims of wars and natural disasters.”

*Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General
From the “World Food Day” message
16 October 2000*

“Almost half the world’s population lives on less than two dollars a day, yet even this statistic fails to capture the humiliation, powerlessness and brutal hardship that is the daily lot of the world’s poor.

Poverty on such a scale is unacceptable, not least because globalization has opened up vast avenues of wealth creation. Globalization can be a strong force in the fight against poverty. But globalization must mean more than creating bigger markets, and experience confirms that growth alone cannot reduce poverty and income inequality. Economic policy must be combined with effective social policies aimed at education for all, health for all and gender equality. This is essential if globalization is to work for all the world’s peoples, and if we are to meet the goal of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty. “

*Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General
From the “International Day for the Eradication of Poverty” message
17 October 2000*



In 2000, the commemoration of the UN Day in Armenia took place under the aegis of the Decade of Eradication of Poverty. To render value-added to this annual commemoration, and to fairly address poverty issues high on the national agenda, UNDP, UNHCR and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator launched a report entitled **“Poverty of Vulnerable Groups”** on the day of commemoration of the 55th Anniversary of the United Nations at National Academy of Sciences. DPI coordinated the commemoration of the Day.



UNDP and UNHCR initiated this report with an objective of acquiring accurate and immediate information as to the status of poverty of vulnerable groups, primarily refugees and disaster zone population, *vis-à-vis* that of the local households not directly affected by the earthquake and the conflict. The data that constitutes the subject matter of the analysis was derived from Express Methodology (EM) conducted among vulnerable refugee, earthquake zone and local households in July – August 1999.

UN DAY 2000 - United Nations 55th Anniversary

The Express Methodology used in the survey was developed on the basis of a Rapid Assessment Survey of Poverty (RASP) adjusted to the conditions and specificities of Armenia. The rationale behind the sampling for the survey was to come up with a comprehensive array of segregated social indicators that underlie differences and similarities in the status of poverty of the surveyed groups,

The “UN WORKS...” posters’ series and other DPI posters were displayed both in the Hall and in the lobby. Approximately 800 pieces of UN publications were distributed. Government officials, the diplomatic corps accredited to Armenia, representatives of international and national NGOs, as well as media people participated in the event.



Another initiative of the DPI was the preparation of press kits in Armenian containing 1) fact sheets on UN in-house agencies, 2) SG UN Day message in Armenian, 3) a press release on the occasion of the launching of the Poverty Report and 4) a chart on the UN System in Armenia. The press kit was delivered to mass media representatives.

*Photos by
Mkhitar Khachatrian*

“POVERTY OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN ARMENIA”



with a goal of ensuring an adequate information base for better targeting of government and donor programmes. At the same time, this report was written by a group of independent experts and the views and opinions expressed therein are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the United Nations in Armenia.

The Agenda of the launching of the Report included as well a 15-minute video “**Face of Poverty**” produced locally. The film features the characteristics and perceptions of poverty in Armenia against the background of global trends and figures. The video was broadcasted on the national TV on the occasion of the IDEP and the production team received an appreciative feedback from the viewers.

FROM THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S UN DAY MESSAGE

“Seven weeks ago your leaders, heads of state and government from all over the world, gathered in New York for the Millennium Summit. They came together to consider the challenges we all face in the new century, and they set out their aims in a Millennium Declaration.

They pledged themselves to free their peoples — from the scourge of war, from abject and dehumanising poverty, and from the threat of living on a polluted planet with few natural resources left. They undertook to promote democracy and the rule of law; to protect children and other vulnerable people; and to meet the special needs of Africa. And they promised to make the United Nations itself more effective, as an instrument for pursuing all those aims.

But the biggest responsibility falls on the leaders themselves - and on you, the peoples.

National leaders have hard and sometimes unpopular decisions to take. They need to remember the priorities they set in the Millennium Declaration, when they come to allocate, among competing needs and demands, the resources that you, the peoples, have entrusted to them.

They need to remember the pledges they made to each other. They need to continue working together, and also to work with other partners at home and abroad — parliaments, local authorities, think tanks and universities, voluntary groups and private corporations..

In short, they need to show leadership, and they need your support - the support of you, the peoples of the United Nations.

The Charter was written in your name, and your leaders spoke for you when they issued the Millennium Declaration. In the end, only you can ensure that the Declaration is more than fine words. It is up to you to see the pledges honoured, and so to make the new century better than the old.

Working together, we can succeed. All we need is courage, imagination and perseverance. Let us pray that we will find them.”



NEW SHELTER FOR REFUGEES

A ceremony of inauguration of new shelter site for refugees took place on November 21 in Nor Nork community of Yerevan. Representatives of the Armenian government, international organisations and diplomatic missions accredited to the country attended the inauguration of an eleven-storeyed residential building.

The building was built on funding provided by UNHCR and NRC through YMCA "Shelter" Section. It takes 60 apartments, of which 50 will be provided to refugee families and the remaining 10 to local families as are stipulated in an agreement signed between UNHCR and the Government of Armenia.

In late November-early December UNHCR is planning to inaugurate another shelter site in

Artashat city of Ararat region. The construction works at the site are close to completion and by the New Year 44 refugee families will move to new apartments.

Although the bulk of UNHCR budget is spent on the "Shelter" programme, it is still not sufficient to meet needs of all refugees and a considerable number of them are living in temporary dwellings such as communal centers, hotels and resort houses. Due to limited funds UNHCR "Shelter" programme, therefore, targets mainly vulnerable categories among refugees such as elderly, disabled refugees, etc.

Since its establishment in Armenia UNHCR has funded the construction of about 3,000 apartments and cottages for refugees.

NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ELECTED

The General Assembly, acting on the Secretary-General's nomination, on October 25 elected by acclamation Professor Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

A statement made by the High Commissioner in connection with the nomination of Mr. Lubbers as a new Head of UNHCR says that Professor Lubbers will bring to the Office an extraordinary wealth of experience from his distinguished career as a statesman, as well as from the private sector, academia and the NGO community. As Prime Minister of the Netherlands from 1982 to 1994, he helped foster strong and lasting ties with the UNHCR, particularly during the difficult early days of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Since leaving government, Professor Lubbers has taught at Tilburg University in the Netherlands and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is currently chair of Globus, the Institute for Globalisation and Development based in Tilburg. Professor Lubbers also presently serves as International President of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

According to Mrs. Ogata, by nominating Professor Lubbers from a pool of excellent candidates, the UN Secretary-General has fulfilled his commitment of nominating a good leader for the Office.

Meeting UNHCR top staff on 1 November 2000 Mr. Ruud Lubbers said he was surprised that

the Secretary-General had asked him succeed Mrs. Ogata. He said that he comes to UNHCR "from a different world" and spoke of his family background and his career as a businessman, Netherlands Minister for Economic Affairs and Trade and Prime Minister for twelve years, as the Cold War ended and European integration gathered speed.

Mr. Lubbers described his life as a journey from business, to government and, in recent years, to a greater appreciation for and involvement with civil society. He has adopted the term "new governance" to describe the role civil society plays today, for example, in influencing private corporations to move their priorities beyond strictly adhering to the law and making profits to broader social concerns.

In wrapping up the meeting, the High Commissioner noted that UNHCR's work with refugees gives the Office a direct entrée into civil society. While many other UN agencies are struggling to define their relationship with civil society, UNHCR has long experience working in partnership with NGOs. She observed, however, that public organisations today must prove their credibility and "value added" in a competitive environment, particularly in relation to NGOs. The High Commissioner expressed the hope that Mr. Lubbers would not simply improve UNHCR's liaison with civil society, but would help make the Office a model public organisation for the new era.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has come to a landmark date in its history. Fifty years for an organisation is not much, one may argue. Yet UNHCR has always been present on the frontline of every crisis situation and accumulated such enormous experience of alleviating human suffering that each year of its work and activities may go for two. It seems that as the world is moving towards globalisation, sophisticated technologies, that one could only come across in science fiction books, the crises should abate and the people should become more tolerant. Nothing of the kind. Instead, the world is getting more and more polarized into the rich and poor countries, where the rich countries lend funds and the poor live on what the rich countries lend them, where people from poor countries flee to rich ones, seeking their protection and better living conditions. The poverty has hit half of the modern world. On many occasions it becomes a source of various crises, ensuing human rights abuses and violence. None of us knows for how long UNHCR will continue to exist. But it is clear that five decades after its establishment, the world situation has worsened, producing large population displacements, which UNHCR has to cope with. Even if there is only a handful of refugees or displaced persons in the world, UNHCR should exist.

Its 50th anniversary UNHCR again uses to draw international community's attention to the cause of refugees. It does not celebrate its establishment; it celebrates refugees, if one can put it this way. Refugees... It is of interesting to mention that when you first ask people what comes to their mind when they hear this word, it is always something negative, like war, violence, massacres, destructions, etc. No one denies it. But people usually mention the causes, which made refugee a "refugee". And what's then? Yes, we accept these people because they were made to flee their countries, but should we just provide them with food, shelter, and clothing and expect nothing in return. Do we really believe that accepting a refugee we just take a burden on our shoulders? For countries which were able to accept refugees on their territories it is tantamount not only to huge expenses, but also to huge investment in their own economy, culture... Once a U.S. Ambassador to the then Soviet Union Mr. Matlock said, "refugees are the wealth for countries, which were able to give them asylum." These are true words and it is not incidental that today the United States is the frontrunner in the world economic development. Therefore, what should we always pay attention to be the positive contribution that refugees are making into societies they live in? This is the motto of the 50th anniversary and this is how the international community should approach the problem of refugees and forcibly displaced persons.

CELEBRATING THE UNHCR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

During the past months UNHCR Armenia carried out a number of activities to celebrate 50 years since its establishment.

During the month of October in cooperation with the "AREG-73" Youth Organisation UNHCR held an intellectual show game "Blitz" which involved refugee and local teenagers from various regions of Armenia. The final stage of the game took place at secondary school #69 in Yerevan, representatives of which became winners in that stiff competition. The game arouses vivid interest among teenagers and served as a bridge between refugees and the locals. The winners and those who participated in the game received special prizes from UNHCR and "AREG-73".

In late October "AREG-73" organised a marathon from the towns of Abovian to Nor Hachen. All in all, over 80 refugee and local children participated in the event, which was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of UNHCR and aimed at mainstreaming refugee children into the society and eliminating a barrier between them and their local peers. The winner of the 5-km distance was Arman Baghdassarian, a refugee, living in one of Yerevan's communal centres. The marathon was not just a sports event; it also pursued the goal of raising public understanding and

awareness of refugee issues. Participants of the marathon were running with slogans such as "The World Without Refugees", "No War & Violence".

Under the UNHCR 50th anniversary celebrations, a contest for the best composition on the topic "My future in Armenia" was organized by "AREG-73" among refugees. A total of 25 refugee children took part in the contest. A special board of jurors, which included representatives of UNHCR and "AREG-73" Youth Organisation, assessed all works. The majority of contestants expressed an optimistic view about their future in Armenia. Only five works were recognized as winners, with Albina Karapetian ranking the first. The best compositions will be read out at the Youth Forum dedicated to the 50th anniversary of UNHCR, which will take place in December at the UN House.

Although the programme "Youth and Active Civic Participation" under which "AREG-73" carried out all the above-mentioned activities is not over, there is one important conclusion that can be drawn already now: unlike elder generation, young refugees link their future with Armenia and are willing to contribute to the prosperity of their motherland.

On 20 October the Armenian Puppeteer Association, member of UNIMA (Union International de la Marionette), celebrated the World Fairy Tale Day. On that day thousands of children and their parents had a chance to enjoy a fascinating 5-hours long show that started off at the Republican Children's Library named after famous Armenian fairy tale writer Khnko Aper and spread all over the Opera Square in Central Yerevan. The beloved fairy tale characters from all over the world flooded the area with joy and mystery involving the children into creative games. UNHCR (within the framework of its 50th

WORLD FAIRY TALE DAY

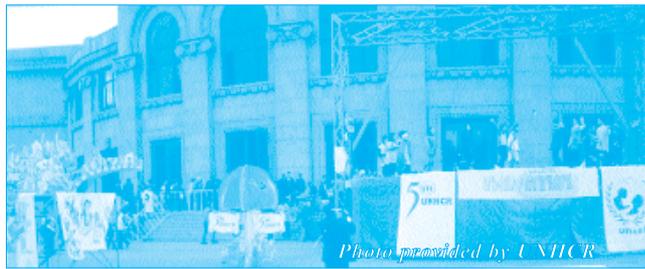


Photo provided by UNHCR

anniversary) and UNICEF supported the organization of the event. UNICEF ensured the participation of children from residential care institutions such as Vardashen school for children with behav-

our problems, and children with special needs from Yerevan boarding schools ## 2, 8, and 11. Several refugee children also participated in the various performances, games and competitions. The core of the programme was the concert performed by young talents-winners of the "Silver Key" Singers Contest. The event ended in an unforgettable sea battle on the artificial "Swans Lake" and great fireworks.



UNICEF

SEMINAR ON CHILD RIGHTS REPORTING

UNICEF-Armenia jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia organised a seminar on child rights reporting on 20-21 November 2000 in Yerevan. The objective of the seminar was to promote a wider knowledge on the con-



Photo by German Avagyan/UNICEF

tents of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the specific mechanisms of the Convention for monitoring and reporting on the status of children's rights in Armenia. The members of the national working group responsible for the preparation of the national periodic reports attended the seminar. "The role of UNICEF is to facilitate the reporting process, and we hope that the seminar gave a good opportunity to all members of the national group to work and discuss together

before starting the preparation of First Periodic Report in 2001. This is an important task because reporting on the implementation of the Convention is to report on the implementation of a series of principles that are the law of the land for Armenia since 1992", said Gloria Fernandez, Head of UNICEF-Armenia Office, at the opening of the seminar.

Dr. Jacob Egbert Doek, Rapporteur of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and an expert on family and juvenile

law, shared his expertise with the participants with a special emphasis on the Committee's Concluding Observations on Armenia's Initial State Party Report on the CRC Implementation as well as preparation of the First Periodic Report. The Republic of Armenia ratified the CRC on 1 June 1992 and the Initial Report was submitted by Armenia in 1997. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reviewed this Initial Report and the Committee's Concluding Observations mention that "there are significant gaps in information relating to general measures of implementation, general principles, civil rights and freedoms, and special protection measures." On a positive note, the Committee welcomed the adoption of the 1996 Rights of the Child Act. "This

demonstrates Armenia’s commitment to its obligations under the Convention”, said Dr. Doek. “However, Armenia should pursue efforts to ensure full compatibility of its legislation with the Convention” he added.

Discussions in working groups helped to exchange the information and experience accumulated by the Concluding Observations in identifying the most productive approaches to the prevention and monitoring of the Rights of Child.

Systematic monitoring and reporting on the child rights becomes especially significant as the world’s nations are in the process of reviewing the commitments made ten years ago at the World Summit for Children and preparing for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children of September 2001 when the new priorities will be identified and new goals will be set for the well-being of the world’s children. “UNICEF is supporting the Armenian Government in the end-decade review process through data collection and identification and analysis of achievements and trends in implementation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action.” said Gloria Fernandez during her special presentation. “We are pleased to note that in Armenia the end-decade review process is linked with the reporting process of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”, she added.

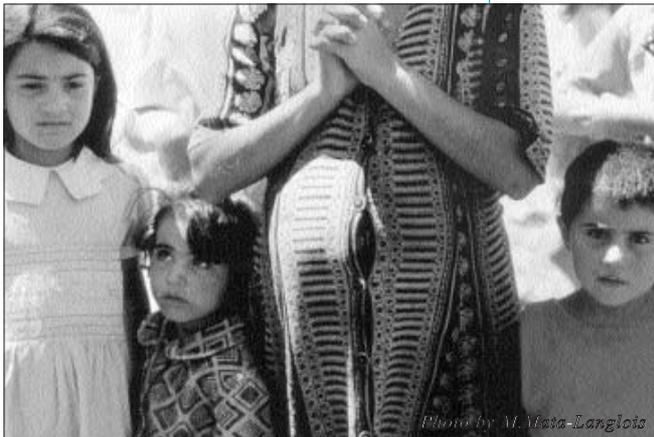
UNICEF used EU contribution for the activity.

SUPPORT TO HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Nutrition Surveillance System

In 1999 a national nutrition workshop organised by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia and UNICEF identified the need for establishing a nutrition surveillance system, as a tool to plan and evaluate public health actions in this domain.

A good nutritional status is indeed essential at all stages of the life of an individual and has to be granted in order to cope with all the different diseases listed among the public health priorities in Armenia. During pregnancy, anemia can influence fetal growth and iron status. In childhood, nutrition is important to preserve the immune function and to guarantee adequate physical and mental development. Fetal and infant nutrition can predispose towards chronic diseases in adults. Interventions on such lifestyle factors can dramatically improve mortality and morbidity.



In November, UNICEF invited international experts to assist in the establishment of a surveillance system based on the priorities of public health and social cost. The system will monitor mortality from chronic diseases in adulthood, mortality from acute diseases in childhood, and morbidity from both chronic and acute diseases. The dietary intake of foods and nutrients will be monitored as risk factors. Starting in the year 2001, a pilot system will be set up in Syunik marz to test procedures and protocols for further extension to the whole country.

Special emphasis will be put on the monitoring of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) which are highly prevalent in Syunik marz. There is a global thrust to eliminate iodine deficiency which is the cause of preventable mental retardation through universal salt iodisation (USI). A recent assessment of Yerevan Salt Factory and the National IDD programme conducted by UNICEF has shown that the Armenian health authorities and technicians at the factory have a serious commitment to eliminate iodine deficiency in the country. Nevertheless, there are some parts of the programme that need to be reinforced such as public education and communication and iodisation of animal salt.

Medical Supplies

UNICEF ordered and organised the distribution of the following medical supplies:

- 50 ambulatory health kits to 50 out of over 200 village ambulatories according to MOH’s distribution list based on needs assessment;
- 55 emergency obstetric kits, one per each of the country’s maternity hospitals;
- iron folate covering one year needs of all women’s consultations and maternity hospitals based on the annual number of deliveries.

UNICEF covered the country’s annual need in vaccines against all the 6 target diseases (polio, tuberculosis, measles, pertussis, tetanus and diphtheria). In addition, UNICEF provided Hepatitis B vaccines. The vaccines were distributed by the MOH through its Epidemiological Surveillance Centre.

TRAINING OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATORS



Photo by German Avagyan / UNICEF

During the Soviet era, pre-schools were funded mainly by the state, with small parental contributions towards the cost of food. After independence responsibility for the management and financing of these institutions was also transferred to local municipalities who were not trained to deal with this new burden. The introduction of fees drastically influenced the parental decision to enroll in pre primary schools. Kindergarten enrolment of 3-6 years old children declined from 65.2% in 1989 to 32.4% in 1996 and 21% in 1997. In addition to the absence of alternatives to kindergarten, there is absence of clear state policies and strategies for early childhood development in the country. Recent funding shortages have also considerably degraded working conditions and quality of care in pre-school institutions.

In the efforts to improve the quality of education, UNICEF invited a consultant to train the core group of trainers for pre-primary teachers following which a training package was

developed as a reminder of the main content areas covered during the training, summary of basic principles and guidelines from the field, description of workshops and practical exercises. The main emphasis of the training sessions held in Yerevan was to upgrade the

knowledge of relevant professionals in the country on the subject of pre school education. Interactive teaching methodology was used throughout the seminar for the participants to have an opportunity to experience themselves the benefits of interactive teaching. The 24 participants included representatives of pre-school teachers from different marzes, representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science as well as representatives from the higher education institutes and universities of Armenia. As a result, a network of pre-school professionals has been established. The trained trainers have already conducted 6-days sessions for 150 kindergarten teachers and headmasters in Syunik and Tavoush marzes.

ASSISTING CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION

In November, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Security to organise four training seminars on the new national regulations in the area of adoption and guardianship. The 120 participants included the Ministry experts, marze-level authorities, social workers, members of commissions on minors issues, representatives of the orphanages and maternity hospitals.

Meanwhile UNICEF continued its support to the children in institutions by assisting the Ministry to organise a 6-days training session to teach sign language to 25 educators of the Yerevan boarding schools for blind children and 5 teachers from marzes.

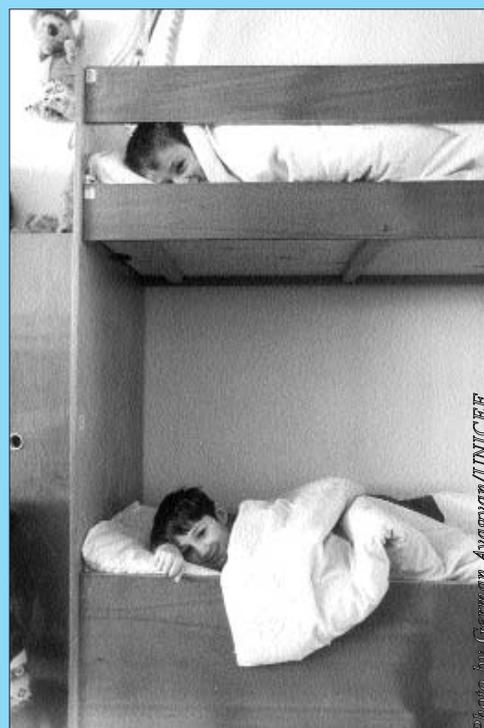


Photo by German Avagyan / UNICEF



Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), today welcomed the announcement by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan that he has appointed Ms. Thoraya Obaid of Saudi Arabia to head the Fund effective 1 January 2001. She is the first Saudi national to be appointed head of a United Nations agency. Dr. Sadik is retiring after 14 years as Executive Director.

Ms. Obaid is currently the Director of the Division for Arab States and Europe at UNFPA, a position she has held since December 1998. Prior to joining the Fund, she was Deputy Executive Secretary for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) from 1993 to 1998. She was the Chief of the Social Development and Population Division from 1992 to 1993 and Senior Social Affairs Officer, with various responsibilities, from 1975 to 1992.

Helping governments establish programmes to empower women has been a central focus of Ms. Obaid's work, both at ESCWA and UNFPA. At ESCWA, she was responsible for providing technical assistance aimed at countering gender inequality, as an integral part of social development programmes.

In 1975 she established the first women's development programme

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFPA

in the Western Asia region. It provided technical assistance to governments to establish national organizational units for women. The programme was instrumental in building partnership between the United Nations and regional non-governmental organizations.

Ms. Obaid chaired the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender in Amman, Jordan, in 1996. In November 1997, she was part of an inter-agency mission to Afghanistan.

Ms. Obaid was the first Saudi Arabian woman to receive a government scholarship to study at a university in the United States. She has a Ph.D. in English literature from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She is an active member of the Middle East Studies Association and of Al Nadha, a Saudi Women's Association.

"I am very pleased at the selection of Thoraya Obaid as Executive Director," said Dr. Sadik. "I believe she has the necessary experience and skills to lead the Fund in the new millennium. We have made great strides in population issues over the past 30 years. Individuals are now at the centre of population policy, and women's empowerment is seen as critical for development. Issues of reproductive and sexual health are now discussed by governments and non-governmental organizations as never before, yet we have much still to achieve.

"A woman dies every minute due to pregnancy-related causes and some 350 million couples do not have access to a range of safe and effective contraceptive methods," continued Dr. Sadik. "As Director of UNFPA's Division for Arab States and Europe, Ms. Obaid has shown her commitment to these issues and I believe she will be courageous in moving the agenda forward. And of course, I

am delighted that my successor will be a woman. I wish Ms. Obaid every success for the future in her new role."

"I hope all the achievements of the Member States since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 will continue to expand and will continue to improve the quality of life of women and men around the world," said Ms. Obaid.

"I am confident that UNFPA, as part of the UN family, will continue to be an active member in the Secretary-General's reform and help in moving forward our common UN programme," she said.

UNFPA is the world's largest international source of population assistance. About a quarter of all population assistance from donor nations to developing countries is channelled through UNFPA.

Since it began operations in 1969, the Fund has provided over \$5 billion in assistance to virtually all developing countries. The Fund's main objectives are to assist countries to provide quality reproductive health and family planning services on the basis of individual choice, and formulate population policies that support sustainable development. The Fund's strategy focuses on meeting the needs of individual women and men rather than on achieving demographic targets. Key to this approach is empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education, health services and employment opportunities.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, a Pakistani obstetrician, was appointed Executive Director of UNFPA in 1987, with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. She was the first woman to be appointed head of a United Nations agency. Today, she is one of six women holding similar rank in the United Nations.



UNDPI



THE FIRST UN MODEL IN ARMENIA

of "AREG 73 - Research and Cultural Youth Association" NGO and students

The "UN Model" is a simulation that replicates diplomatic activities and efforts. Its major goal is to disseminate and to promote the UN mission, main directions of activities, principles, goals and related issues among general public. The models enjoy great popularity in many UN member states. In Armenia, however, the simulation was enacted for the first time.

The "UN Model" is a replication of the procedure of the session of any of the UN decision-making body (General Assembly, Security Council, International Court, etc.). The simulation enables all the participants to be directly involved in the decision-making process, thus getting an opportunity to voice their own opinions about and perceptions of the issues that are of global concern.

The simulation was initiated and implemented by the members

from Hrachia Acharian University with the support of the Department of Public Information of the UN Armenia Office.

The initiators of the "UN model" simulation in Armenia made concerted efforts to stage a session of the UN Security Council, which had, on its agenda, issues related to the Cyprus Conflict.

Students from several high schools in Yerevan were also invited to participate in the "UN Model" as observers. These were the students for whom "AREG - 73" NGO organized training sessions on social conflicts resolution and on technologies of conducting negotiations.

The simulation was preceded by a preparatory stage of three days of lectures, which covered the following themes:



◇ *Armenian membership in the UN, regional conflicts and international relations* (Speaker: Mr. A. Arzumanyan, the first Armenian Ambassador to the UN, former RoA Minister of Foreign Affairs).

◇ *The rules of procedures of the UN Security Council* (Speaker: Mr. A. Mkrtchian, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Soviet Armenia, former Director of the UN DPI Headquarters, Professor of Hrachia Acharian University).

◇ *A retrospective survey of the Cyprus conflict* (Speaker: Mr. A. Avagyan, Head of the Turkey Department of the RoA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yerevan State University Professor).



Photos by Armine Halajyan

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