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DRAFT

Message from Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the United Nations
to the
United Nations Women's Guild
on the occasion of its
Pictorial Exhibition at UN Headquarters

New York
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Message from the Secretary-General to
The United Nations Women's Guild
on the occasion of its
Pictorial Exhibition at UN Headquarters

I am delighted to have the opportunity to warmly congratulate the United Nations Women's Guild on the occasion of this exhibition. Its founders came together in 1948 to knit woolen garments to help as many children as possible through the first winters of the post-war world -- and the Guild has continued to weave the beautiful fabric of internationalism ever since.

Made up of women connected to the United Nations by work or family, the Guild's membership mirrors that of the UN itself; it constitutes a community of nations writ small, a rainbow of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. In this era marked by proliferating civil strife and cruel intolerance, the example of unity and understanding set by the Guild is needed and appreciated more than ever. In its modest fashion, the United Nations Women's Guild is helping to create the culture of peace and caring our world so desperately requires on the threshold of the 21st century.

With its focus on helping children, the Guild reminds us that children are our only future. The Guild's devoted members, who have raised over a million dollars for children over the years, well understand that children's essential needs must be

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given a "first call" on society's resources, whether times are good or bad, in war or peace. This was the simple but revolutionary principle affirmed by the World Summit for Children in 1990. I am convinced that the world would be a very different -- a far better -- place if this formula were followed more rigorously and consistently!

I know that I am speaking for Mrs. Boutros Boutros-Ghali -- who is delighted to act as Honorary President of the Guild -- as well as myself, in saying that the United Nations is very proud of the United Nations Women's Guild. We wish you another half-century of success and urge you to continue your multiple good works.