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Foreword by Mr. James P. Grant  
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
for the  
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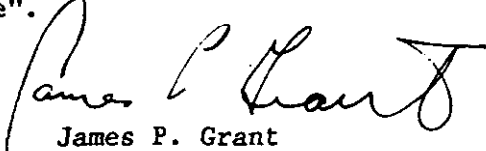
FOREWORD

The proposals contained in this annual volume constitute a vital part of UNICEF's efforts for children and women throughout the developing world. They complement and extend our regular programmes. They have been deemed worthy of support by UNICEF's Executive Board, but we lack the funds to make them happen. We are counting on governments, National Committees for UNICEF, non-governmental organizations and the public at large to provide the supplementary funding needed to set them in motion. Millions of lives -- and the quality of life of millions more -- depend on their speedy and full implementation.

Support for these projects will bring the world closer to keeping the historic promises made to children in 1990. That year, the Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force and children were the subject of the first-ever global summit meeting -- the World Summit for Children. Coming out of 1990, essentially, was a new ethical commitment to recognize children's essential needs as rights, backed by a commitment to respect them by meeting a series of measurable, verifiable goals for dramatically improving children's lives by the year 2000.

Since 1990, governments all over the world have been developing National Programmes of Action to reach the goals set forth at the World Summit for Children. The proposals contained in this volume will strengthen these efforts. They are conceived in such a way as to enhance recipient countries' self-reliance, increase community participation, and target the most hard-to-reach groups. They embody proven, cost-effective and sustainable ways of improving primary health care and nutrition; extending access to basic learning and life skills; providing safe water and sanitation; protecting children in especially difficult circumstances; safeguarding the child's environment and promoting the role of girls and women in development.

Donors who fund these programmes will not only be helping to improve the lives of children in the recipient countries, but will be investing in a new, more stable, prosperous and meaningful world order. As a result of the dizzying political and economic changes that have taken place in recent years, the 1990s constitute one of those rare "windows of opportunity" that only open once or twice a century to permit quantum leaps of human progress. Let us all work to ensure that the opportunity does not slip by. And thank you for supporting UNICEF's efforts to "keep the promise".

  
James P. Grant  
Executive Director