

23 April 1998

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to report that we are actively engaged in the implementation of the reform measures proposed by the Secretary-General, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in November last year.

As the designated representative of the Secretary-General, the Resident Coordinator, and the other members of the United Nations country team, are at the cutting edge of many of the Secretary-General's reforms. They are expected to lead the way with the implementation of several key reform measures such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the United Nations House. We consider that all members of the United Nations country team carry a mutual obligation to implement the Secretary-General's reform programme and to ensure that we collectively contribute to the strengthening of the United Nations work at the country level through the Resident Coordinator system (RCS). In that sense we all have wide ranging responsibilities - for our own organization and on behalf of the United Nations system. In strengthening the RCS, we aim to enhance the coherence and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations for development.

The RCS will be strengthened by the selection of Resident Coordinators from all organizations concerned. In the latter part of 1997, 11 out of 35 of candidates selected for Resident Coordinator positions were from the United Nations system outside of UNDP. UNDP continues as the funder and manager of the RCS.

We wish to express our commitment to seek the best-qualified candidates for Resident Coordinators from the United Nations system as a whole. A variety of work experiences within the United Nations system and especially in the organizations dealing with development and humanitarian issues would obviously be an asset to staff who are interested in being considered for the post of Resident Coordinator. We encourage staff to develop the broad competencies that will be increasingly demanded of Resident Coordinators in the future.

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ALL STAFF

Also, we intend to provide greater opportunities for staff to move between our organizations and to ensure that professional experience with other United Nations entities, including service as United Nations Resident Coordinators, is recognized as a strong factor in career development and advancement.

We shall collaborate to establish a better system for achieving mobility of staff between different funds and programmes including the sharing of vacancy notices and the possible identification of positions for interagency exchange. We welcome any suggestions you may have on this subject including any ideas you may wish to propose for stimulating inter-agency cooperation in this area.

Yours sincerely,



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