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### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

#### Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, at its 70th plenary meeting on 11 November 1985, adopted resolution 40/10, by which it took note of the programme of the International Year of Peace.
2. According to the programme of the Year, contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/40/669 and Add.1), the heads of all organizations within the United Nations system would issue a joint statement in observance of the Year. The statement would present the United Nations system as acting for peace in various fields and through various activities. This expression of the common goals and objectives of the United Nations system would contribute to strengthening the Organization and its programmes.
3. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the text of the statement of the executive heads of international organizations adopted as the statement of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in observance of the Year (see annex).

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\* A/41/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination  
in observance of the International Year of Peace

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system gathered in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) welcome the General Assembly's proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace. They reaffirm their commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and reiterate their strong support for the objectives of the Year.

2. The United Nations system today is the only universal system charged with the responsibility of maintaining international peace and promoting the economic development and social progress of all peoples on this planet. As the principal international instrument dedicated to the harmonization of the actions of nations towards these ends, the United Nations system has, over the past 40 years, made a significant contribution to progress in such diverse areas as maintenance of peace and security, decolonization, disarmament, economic and social development, promotion of international law, human rights, development of human resources, protection of and assistance to refugees, disaster relief, transportation and communications, and protection and enhancement of the environment. Above all, it has helped to prevent the outbreak of a new global conflagration.

3. Nevertheless, the peaceful world foreseen in the Charter is far from assured. The danger of a nuclear catastrophe casts a dark shadow over all people and threatens the very existence of present and future generations. Smouldering regional conflicts continue to pose an ominous threat to international peace, while levying a heavy toll on human lives.

4. At the recent fortieth anniversary commemorative session, strong support for the United Nations system was expressed by world leaders. There was, at the same time, a broad consensus among Member States on the urgent need to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations, especially in the maintenance of international peace and security. The members of ACC deeply share this concern. It is their hope that during the International Year of Peace new steps will be taken towards realizing more fully the potential of the organizations of the United Nations system. All nations and people have a common and vital interest in peace. It is the prerequisite for all their endeavours.

5. Attention must be focused, during the coming months and years, on how "to safeguard peace and the future of humanity" - the primary theme of the International Year of Peace. There is a clear need for strong and determined action by the United Nations system to deal with the many difficult and complex political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems facing the world today. The United Nations system provides Member States and the international community with a ready instrument which should be utilized in the collective efforts needed for addressing and resolving these problems, many of which are global. International co-operation, in this interdependent world and in this nuclear age, is not only desirable, it is essential.

6. There must be concerted and sustained efforts towards disarmament, both nuclear and conventional. The members of ACC hope that the current bilateral and multilateral negotiations will lead to concrete results on arms limitation and disarmament, to the removal of the danger of nuclear annihilation, and to the relocation of resources for development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries. Continuing conflicts need to be resolved, and resort to violence needs to be constrained. Effective United Nations actions to strengthen international peace and security are now especially important and needed.

7. The promotion of global development and effective intergovernmental economic and social co-operation are essential components of the promotion of peace. History has shown that poverty and inequity breed tension and violence. Better means to avoid or deal with economic and social crises must be elaborated. The full and equitable development of human and natural resources and the opening of opportunity for a full and rich contribution to the common good of humankind by all people are of special importance in the quest for peace. Intellectual activities, whether in the form of science or culture, should be directed towards improving the human condition. Action must be vigorously pursued to eliminate hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy, and to meet essential human needs such as food, shelter, education, health, employment, a safe and sustainably exploited environment, and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. While existing forms of international co-operation should be strengthened, new avenues for effective co-operation in this interdependent world must be found.

8. The General Assembly, in proclaiming 1986 to be the International Year of Peace, called upon all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and people everywhere to join in resolute efforts to safeguard peace and the future of humanity. All elements of the United Nations system must lead the way in pursuit of these goals. Together they can take positive action to meet both present challenges and those of the future and create a more peaceful and better world for all.

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