

# United Nations

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## Press Release

Office of Public Information  
Press Section  
United Nations, New York



Biographical Note

BIO/1670  
DEV/1263  
11 February 1980

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### LAURICE HLIASS APPOINTED UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN MOROCCO

(Reproduced as received from UNDP, New York.)

Bradford Morse, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has appointed Laurice Hlass, a national of Jordan, as the UNDP Resident Representative in Morocco. She succeeds Peter Lowes, who was assigned to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.

Since joining UNDP in April 1979, Ms. Hlass has held the post of Liaison Officer with the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) in Beirut, Lebanon.

Born in 1933, Ms. Hlass received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Education and Economics from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1951; and a Masters degree in Social Work, Community and Organization from the New York School of Social Work, Columbia University, New York in 1959.

Prior to joining UNDP, Ms. Hlass served as Inspector of Social Welfare in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in Amman, Jordan from 1951-1952; Chief and Assistant Chief of the Social Welfare Division in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Beirut, Lebanon from 1952-1957; Associate Professor of Research in the American University of Beirut, Lebanon from 1959-1960; Assistant Director of the Arab Information Centre for the South-West Region of the United States in Dallas, Texas from 1960-1962; and Community Development Adviser with the Government of Morocco through the United Nations Technical Assistance programme from 1962-1966.

Ms. Hlass has also had a long and distinguished career with her Government, which included posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman as Chief of Cabinet (with rank of Minister Plenipotentiary), from 1966-1968; Deputy Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations in New York, in 1968; Chief of Cabinet (with rank of Ambassador) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman from 1969-1971; and as Senior Adviser to the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities in Amman from 1974-1979.

In addition, Ms. Hlass was a writer and editor of local Jordan papers with experience in radio and television programmes; representative of the

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Youth Organization to the Youth Conference in Oslo, Norway; member of the UNRWA Relief Team to flood operation in Iraq and later UNRWA representative to the United Nations Social Affairs Conferences in Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Germany; Jordan representative to the United Nations Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) in New York in 1968. She also represented Jordan in a meeting of Ministers of Social Affairs held in New York in 1968 and three sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in the Second and Third Committees from 1968-1970; and headed the Jordan Delegation to the World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico City in 1975.

Ms. Hlass was awarded the Moroccan Decoration of Al-Arsh from the King of Morocco for good service in 1966, and the Jordan Decoration of Alistiklal for excellent work from the King of Jordan in 1968.

Ms. Hlass is expected to take up her duties in Rabat on or about 18 February 1980. In Morocco, she will be responsible for monitoring UNDP's participation in the country's economic and social development activities. The UNDP has allocated \$20 million for these activities for the period 1977-1981.

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