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TEXT OF REMARKS BY SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM  
AT OPENING OF UNITED NATIONS ART EXHIBITION, 23 MARCH

Following is the text of the remarks made by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim at the opening of the United Nations Art Exhibition on 23 March:

It gives me great pleasure indeed to be with you at the opening of the United Nations Art Exhibition.

This annual event has a two-fold reward. It affords both staff and visitors an opportunity to enjoy the talents of our colleagues in the Secretariat and Missions, while also helping the needy children of the world. For, as has been customary during the past twenty-two years, all sales and the raffle donations will benefit UNICEF.

As we look about, any casual impression that United Nations people express themselves solely through speeches and documents is quickly dispelled. We are men and women from many lands, representing a rich variety of cultures. And we have been brought together to work in a great common cause: the survival and progress of mankind. The concept of unity in diversity which underlies our various pursuits at the United Nations is eloquently expressed by the works exhibited here.

Throughout history mankind's deepest feelings and highest aspirations have found expression in the arts. As the United Nations reflects the political state of the world, so this exhibition mirrors the many cultures which produced it. It is gratifying to see so much artistic creativity flourishing in our midst. For art is indeed a universal language, understandable to all who open their minds and hearts to its message.

I wish to thank all who have organized and participated in this endeavour.

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