

DIVISION  
OF  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/33/333  
25 October 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-third session  
Agenda item 66

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 32/54 of 8 December 1977, the General Assembly, inter alia, appealed to all Member States to make substantial contributions to the Endowment Fund of the United Nations University and/or to give financial and other support to specific programmes of the University. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Rector of the United Nations University, the Council of the University and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to explore more effective means of raising funds and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-third session on the progress achieved in this regard.
2. The following report is submitted in accordance with the resolution mentioned above.
3. When the General Assembly created the United Nations University in 1973, it took a bold and imaginative step in institution building. It created a new kind of academic institution to enable scholars in both developed and developing countries to undertake research on a world-wide basis while continuing to play a role in national research and training activities.
4. In discussing fund-raising activities it is essential to examine the objectives of the United Nations University. In this connexion, the particular contributions of the University can be summarized as follows:
  - (a) To take a comprehensive approach; the contribution of the world-wide network of scholars and institutions which the United Nations University is creating helps to integrate perspective not only from many different disciplines but also from different social, economic and cultural systems;
  - (b) To recognize the special value of indigenous scholarship - the contributions of scholars with knowledge of regional, national and/or local situations; by reducing their isolation and supporting their efforts, in other ways, the United Nations University helps build institutions and the capability to identify relevant and effective solutions to local problems;

(c) To maximize the use of existing knowledge by organizing programmes of information exchange in published form, through interdisciplinary workshop and fellowship programmes; too often it is assumed that knowledge flows naturally to where it is most needed - the opposite is often the case and valuable knowledge lies unused behind dams of inefficiency and isolation;

(d) To avoid unnecessary duplication of scarce research resources as well as to strengthen research efforts taking place in different parts of the world, by planning and co-ordinating research on a world-wide basis.

5. The creation of associations between the United Nations University and research and training institutions throughout the world aims at strengthening scientific and technical capabilities suited to national and regional needs and trains young scholars without causing braindrain.

6. During the past year, the United Nations University has made substantial progress towards completion of the following tasks which it began three years ago:

(a) The establishment of its headquarters; the headquarters is currently staffed with approximately 80 persons engaged in planning and co-ordinating the University's programme activities;

(b) The establishment of three programmes conducting world-wide research and training concerning world hunger, human and social development and use and management of natural resources;

(c) The formal linking of 18 associated institutions, 50 research units and numerous individual scholars and researchers in the United Nations University's networks, providing links with some 60 countries;

(d) The advanced training of 50 United Nations University fellows from 23 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

7. In the past three years, fund-raising has been given a high priority in the activities of the United Nations University:

(a) Members of the Council of the United Nations University have drawn the attention of Governments to the progress of the University and its need for contributions to its Endowment Fund;

(b) The Rector and Vice-Rectors of the United Nations University and other senior staff have met with Governments and with the academic and scientific communities to explain in detail the scope and progress of the programmes and their relationship to national and international research activities;

(c) The United Nations University has organized 12 consultative meetings, of which eight were held in 1976-1977 and four in 1978. The purpose of these meetings, which are organized by appropriate institutions in host countries, is to inform leaders of government, academic and institutional communities on the role and programmes of the United Nations University and to receive suggestions for the work of the University. These are regional meetings and therefore a wide range of countries has been represented at them;

(d) The United Nations University is intensifying its efforts to gain the understanding and support of non-governmental organizations, including foundations.

8. A potentially important development in connexion with fund-raising was the decision of the United Nations University Council at its ninth session, held in Tokyo from 5 to 9 December 1977, to establish a section in the United Nations University Endowment Fund for the purpose of financing the University's programmes designed to assist developing countries. The intention of this provision is to make possible contributions from national funds designated for development work.

9. In the current year the United Nations University has a budget of \$US 9.1 million from the interest on an Endowment Fund of just over \$US 78 million and from operating contributions. In its early years, the University has had to meet the challenge of providing the maximum possible funds to the programme activities while establishing a sound headquarters structure. In the current year, only the third year of operations, 71 per cent of the budget will go to programme activities. Nevertheless, these funds are now inadequate for the development and expansion of the University's programmes. For these, over a period, an income averaging at least \$US 30 million will be required. Further, the University envisages that 88 per cent of this income would be spent on programme activities.

10. To secure an income of this size the Endowment Fund of the United Nations University should be of the order of \$US 500 million against \$US 126 million already pledged by 20 Governments, of which Japan alone has pledged \$US 100 million. A table presenting the pledges and contributions from Governments as at 15 October 1978 appears in the annex to the present report.

11. The Council of the United Nations University, in its annual report, 1/ expressed deep concern about the University's financial position and emphasized that the University's full potential could not be realized under present financial circumstances.

12. In 1978, the Secretary-General has appealed in writing to many Member States for contributions to the University Endowment Fund and has met with representatives of a number of potential donor countries. The response to these appeals has been varied. Further efforts to raise the needed funds to ensure the future viability of the United Nations University are therefore required.

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/33/31).

## ANNEX

Summary of pledges and contributions to the Endowment Fund and  
operating funds a/ of the United Nations University  
as at 15 October 1978

| Governments               | PLEDGED                              |   | CONTRIBUTED  |  | Remarks   |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|                           | Amount b/<br>(in \$US)               | Date  | Amount b/<br>(in \$US)                               | Date   |   |
| Austria                   | 238 800                              | 14 June 1976  | 238 800<br>61 600<br>34 500                          | 7 January 1977<br>19 October 1977<br>21 September 1978                                 | 1 million Austrian<br>schillings pledged<br>annually after initial<br>contributions                   |
| Cyprus                    | 1 291                                | 30 March 1972   | 1 291  | 5 June 1978  |   |
| Ghana                     | 2 500 000                            | 26 May 1976   | 14 750<br>14 790<br>500 000<br>14 790<br>500 000     | 28 May 1975<br>20 November 1975<br>17 December 1976<br>21 June 1977<br>5 December 1977 | pledged over 5 years  |
| Greece                    |                                      |   | 20 000<br>20 000<br>25 000                           | 21 January 1976<br>28 December 1977<br>5 July 1978                                     |   |
| Holy See                  |                                      |   | 50 000   | 28 February 1977   |   |
| India                     | 750 000                              | 1 February 1977   | 75 000   | 5 May 1977   | pledged over 5 years  |
| Japan                     | 100 000 000                          | 25 September 1973   | 20 000 000<br>20 000 000<br>20 000 000<br>10 000 000 | 20 January 1975<br>22 January 1976<br>4 February 1977<br>31 January 1978               | pledged over 5 years<br>provided that<br>contributions from other<br>Member States are<br>forthcoming |
| Libyan Arab<br>Jamahiriya | 50 000<br>50 000<br>50 000<br>25 000 | 26 April 1976<br>20 January 1977<br>22 August 1977<br>28 September 1978 | 50 000<br>50 000                                     | 28 December 1976<br>16 February 1977   |   |
| Malaysia                  |                                      |   | 10 000   | 15 July 1978   |   |

| Governments  | PLEDGED                |                                  | CONTRIBUTED                   |   | Remarks                          |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|              | Amount b/<br>(in \$US) | Date                             | Amount b/<br>(in \$US)        | Date  |                                  |
| Netherlands  | 100 000                | 24 May 1976                      | 100 000<br>100 000            | 8 July 1976<br>12 July 1977                       | pledged annually for a few years |
| Norway       | 189 251<br>194 780     | 28 March 1977<br>26 January 1978 | 180 018<br>189 251<br>194 780 | 1 April 1976<br>9 May 1977<br>8 February 1978     |                                  |
| Philippines  | 50 000                 | 7 June 1978                      | 5 000<br>5 000                | 19 April 1978<br>18 September 1978                | pledged over 5 years             |
| Saudi Arabia | 5 000 000              | 9 March 1977                     | 1 070 000                     | 15 December 1977                                  |                                  |
| Senegal      | 1 000 000              | 11 August 1977                   | 22 087<br>24 006<br>226 193   | January 1975<br>29 June 1978<br>21 September 1978 |                                  |
| Sudan        | 5 000 000              | 9 December 1976                  |                               |   | pledged over 5 years             |
| Sweden       | 208 877                | 5 September 1977                 | 231 215<br>208 877            | 19 August 1975<br>10 November 1977                |                                  |
| Switzerland  | 182 796                | 3 February 1978                  | 53 763                        | 7 March 1978                                      | pledged over 4 years             |
| Tunisia      | 10 000                 | 11 November 1977                 | 5 183                         | 14 September 1978                                 |                                  |
| Venezuela    | 10 000 000             | 18 August 1975                   | 2 000 000<br>2 000 000        | 29 January 1976<br>6 September 1977               | pledged over 5 years             |
| Zaire        |                        |                                  | 100 000                       | 6 July 1977                                       |                                  |
| TOTAL        | 126 523 521 c/         |                                  | 78 390 711                    |   |                                  |

a/ Includes funds for programme activities.

b/ Where amounts were pledged and/or paid in national currencies other than United States dollars, a conversion was made using the exchange rate in effect at the time of the pledge payment.

c/ This total includes contributions received without a prior pledge; for details in individual cases see the "Amount paid" column.