

# Foreword



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**T**he 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, a historic moment in the life of the Organization, offers an opportunity to reflect on the UN's past and consider its future. It is a moment to take pride in the UN's achievements and build upon its strengths as well as to acknowledge its flaws and learn from its failures. In this sense, 1995 is a defining moment for the Organization.

Though peacekeeping draws the lion's share of media attention, the greater efforts of the UN go to development, disarmament, democratization, humanitarian and refugee work, environmental action, human rights, health and family planning. For that reason, we welcome *A Vision of Hope* which gives a thoughtful overview of this broad agenda. It makes vivid and compelling the dire needs of so many and brings home to the reader the real work of the UN as it saves lives, changes lives and offers hope and opportunity to millions.

The UN reflects the will of its Member States. When that will is clear and united the UN is strengthened and possibilities for a better world are real. *A Vision of Hope* adds to the analysis that will renew and reinforce the UN, convey a greater understanding of its work and assist it to become more effective in its next half century.