

Remarks at the signing of the Host Country Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the World Institute For Development Economics Research (WIDER) in Finland

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Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is truly a momentous day for the United Nations University - one on which we formally launch the establishment of our first research and training centre, a step envisioned in the University Charter. On behalf of the University, may I express our deepest gratitude to the Government of Finland for their very great and visionary gift of more than \$30 million which makes this step possible.

The documents being signed today are the Host Country Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) in Finland. The Host Country Agreement regulates WIDER's legal status in Finland as well as the content of certain privileges and immunities to be accorded to the Institute and those associated with it. The Memorandum of Understanding concerns the generous voluntary contribution of Finland and the application of certain provisions of the Host Country Agreement. //

There are essentially three reasons, I believe, why there is a need to establish a World Institute for Development Economics Research.

First, there is the fact that the present state of economic theory is simply incapable of coping with the intricate and constantly changing complexities of the current international economic system.

Second, we have now come to realize that development can no longer be pursued within the boundaries of the nation state alone - it can only be pursued within a global framework.

Third, we now have to admit that development strategies evolved to date have failed in reaching and improving the daily lot of the poorest of the poor - many millions around the globe continue to exist in grinding poverty and hunger on the bare edge of survival. //

Beyond these specific needs which we believe WIDER should deal with, this new institute will also serve to strengthen significantly the United Nations University itself, both materially and intellectually. It can greatly add to our effectiveness in the world's scholarly community, widening our contacts there. It is a specific response to the goals we have enumerated in our Medium-Term Perspective. //

WIDER, as an integral part of the University, will set up important new scientific interactions with the constant hub of the University, the planning and co-ordinating centre here in Tokyo. The centre will therefore greatly benefit by the addition of this institute to a growing University family. / In this respect, I think we need to recognize that WIDER really manifests the visions of two governments - that of Finland but also that of Japan, which has played such a central role in the birth and growth of the United Nations University. I greatly appreciate the presence here today of the Ambassadors of several countries as well as two Members of the Council of the University, Ambassador Saito and Dr. Elise Boulding. I am especially delighted to have the representatives of the Government of Japan here for this most exciting occasion. And, of course, I thank the Foreign Minister of Finland, Mr. Väyrynen, for having come to Japan to be present at this important signing ceremony.