

World Food Programme. Indeed, one of the great strengths of the Programme is that it will provide food to those who need it and can use it, but at the same time will safeguard the vital interests of commercial exporters, who trade to live. The United Nations and the FAO have fully recognized that one cannot -- to use a colloquial phrase -- rob Peter to pay Paul.

Before I turn to the draft resolution before us, I should like to emphasize one further point. In this Committee and in the Economic and Social Council we spend a great deal of time debating questions of co-ordination. In the World Food Programme the two major agencies concerned with the elimination of hunger and with basic economic development -- the United Nations and the Food and Agricultural Organization -- are equal partners administering this new experiment in international assistance, each selecting ten of the twenty members of the Intergovernmental Committee. The launching of this new co-ordinated programme represents a challenge to the United Nations system, for, as the Secretary-General pointed out on September 5 at the Pledging Conference, it illustrates the possibilities of combined and concerted action within this United Nations family of organizations. The success of this co-ordinated approach is important to the future of the whole United Nations system.

The draft resolution before us refers to the United Nations Development Decade and in particular, to the need to eliminate illiteracy, hunger and disease. It cannot, of course, be expected that the World Food Programme, with its modest resources, can immediately eliminate hunger and malnutrition from the world. It is after all an experimental programme. It can, however, as I have already indicated, help to alleviate suffering in emergencies and assist in economic and social development. We would hope that through what it may achieve during the next three years it will make an important contribution to the success of the Development Decade.