



No. 021

February 1, 1989.

CANADIAN WOMAN ASSUMES OFFICE OF DIRECTOR AT  
UN FUND FOR WOMEN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, welcomed the appointment of Sharon Capeling as Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The appointment, which Canada supported, was made in November, 1988 and takes effect today.

"I am very pleased that the position of UNIFEM Director is being assumed by a Canadian woman, especially in view of the importance that the Government of Canada accords to promoting the improved political, economic and social status of women both domestically and internationally", said Mr. Clark.

Ms. Capeling is a native of Saskatchewan and has had more than 20 years experience in international development. Since 1983, she has managed CUSO (formerly Canadian University Service Overseas) projects in West Africa.

UNIFEM has its origins in the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, which was established in 1976. The Voluntary Fund was succeeded in 1984 by the United Nations Development Fund for Women, a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Program. UNIFEM's twofold mandate is to serve a catalytic policy-making function within the UN system and to support innovative and experimental activities benefitting women in line with national and regional priorities. Canada is the second largest contributor to UNIFEM. In 1988-89, Canada contributed \$1,150,000 to the Fund.

- 30 -

Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures