

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. KALMAN MIZSEI
AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL AND DIRECTOR
OF THE UNDP REGIONAL BUREAU FOR EUROPE AND
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES**

New York, 06 December 2000 -- The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, today announced the appointment of Mr. Kalman Mizsei (Hungary) as Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC). The appointment will become effective upon the arrival of Mr. Mizsei in New York early next year.

Mr. Mizsei will lead RBEC during a demanding period as the region continues to engage in a difficult transformative process as it faces complex economic and political challenges.

Mr. Mizsei has had a varied career serving both in government and in the private sector. Currently he is the Chief Investment Officer for Central and Eastern Europe with American International Group, Inc., and brings a strong background in economics, public policy, business and financial affairs of the region. He has served as Chairman of the Hungarian Export Import Bank, Ltd. and of the Hungarian Export Credit Insurance Ltd. As Vice President for Economic Programmes of the Institute for EastWest Studies as well as in other important positions, Mr. Mizsei has acted as a senior advisor to governments of the region on their economic transition and reform as well as on such critical issues as privatization, debt relief, governance, banking and bankruptcy reform. He served as Deputy Director of the Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and was a major participant in the East and Central European Transformation Project sponsored by the United Nations University.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. Mizsei said:

“I am honoured to have the opportunity to lead UNDP’s work throughout this important region. It is a vast region that faces considerable intellectual and practical challenges. Although the issues confronting the post-socialist societies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia differ in considerable degree to those in other underdeveloped parts of the world, the work of the United Nations and UNDP is vital.

With life expectancy in sharp decline and ethnic tensions unresolved, the call throughout the region is for innovative advice and sensible solutions. UNDP has a special role to promote the human development agenda and support the ongoing economic and social transitions.

I look forward to working closely with the governments and people throughout the region as we together move to solve these complex challenges.”

The Administrator, Mr. Malloch Brown, noted: “I am delighted to have Mr. Mizsei lead UNDP’s efforts in the RBEC region. He brings a deep knowledge of the countries and their challenges as well as extensive practical experience in the public and private sectors. I am certain he will have the breadth of vision and expertise needed to assist this region through the continued challenges of transformation.”

Mr. Mizsei holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Budapest University of Economics.

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