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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

This book covers more than eighty years of history between women and inter-governmental organizations. Unrecorded by history and untold by the media, this book recalls the success story of women and the League of Nations and describes the unfolding history of women at the United Nations up to the great progress for advancement and empowerment of women that was achieved in the last decade of the 20th century. Thus this is a complementary monograph to the book *Making Women Matter: The Role of the United Nations*, which I published with Jeanne Vickers in 1990 (third updated edition by Zed Books in 1996).

It was the international women's movement, which was itself in the making at the time, that had an impact on the foresight reflected in the principles governing the creation of the United Nations. All due credit should be therefore given to the "founding mothers" of cooperation between the women's movement and the UN.

This book tells the story of how the United Nations has become a women-friendly global institution in spite of being a forum of governments, the great majority of which still reflect mainly the visions and aspirations of men. Through the strenuous and skilful diplomacy and struggles of women over the decades, women's aspirations and visions have been brought to the forefront of the international agenda and have resulted in Declarations, Covenants and Programmes for the advancement and empowerment of women, which go beyond existing legislation and policies in most of the UN Member States.


My former publications on this subject and this *Development Dossier* are related to the United Nations Intellectual History Project, which is set to become, finally, a written history of the economic, social and cultural activities of the UN system. Until now this dimension of the UN's history has not been written, taught,



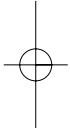
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studied, nor researched in the colleges and universities of the world. I hope this *Development Dossier* contributes to filling that gap in academia.

This book is also the latest outcome of the long-term cooperation between the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) and myself from NGLS's inception in 1975, first during the years of my work as the Secretary General of the Finnish United Nations Association (1963-1990) and then in connection with the publication of books and booklets on the advancement of women by the United Nations since 1985. Therefore my very warm thanks goes again to NGLS and my good friend and NGLS Coordinator, Tony Hill. I would also like to thank Adrienne Cruz and Beth Peoc'h of NGLS for their role as linguistic editors, and Suroor Alikhan for her cooperation in finalizing the manuscript.



Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the United Nations and NGLS for their generosity in making this book available to all interested readers.



Hilkka Pietilä
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