



CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2001-00803

Full Item Register Number [auto] **CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2001-00803**

Ext Ref: Doc Series/Year/Number **SP/SSC/WSF-014**

Record Item Title

Initial Response of NGOs Attending the World Summit for Children (1990: 1 October)

Date Created / on Correspondence 12/28/2001	Date Registered 12/28/2001	Date Closed
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Primary Contact	Rijuta Tooker (Temp Assist)
Owner Location	Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =
Home Location	Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =
Current Location	Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =

Fd1: Type: IN, OUT, INTERNAL
 Fd2: Sender Ref or Cross Ref
 Field 3

File Container Record ID File Container Record (Title)	CF/RAF/USAA/DB01/2001-07602 UNICEF-NGO Cooperation [WSC Follow-up]	
N1: Number of pages 0	N2: Doc Year 0	N3: Document Number 0

Full GCG Code Plan Number
 Record GCG File Plan

Da1: Date Published	Da2: Date Received	Date 3	Priority
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Record Type **A01ed Item Corr - CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC**

Electronic Details	No Document	DOS File Name
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Alt Bar code = RAMP-TRIM Record Number **CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2001-00803**

Notes
 Archives [Copy in room 1326-2.]

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Planning
~~SUMMIT~~ - NGOs

INITIAL RESPONSE OF NGOS ATTENDING THE
WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN
(See attached list)

We welcome the Declaration and Plan of Action signed by the Heads of State or Government attending the Summit and are pleased to see that many of the issues raised by NGO leadership in the preparation of the Summit have been included. We are equally gratified that political commitment to these goals has been demonstrated in the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 50 countries.

We appreciate the recognition by several world leaders of the ongoing essential contribution of NGOs. This is important because without the continuing support and work of the Non-Governmental sector, these declarations will never be transformed into action for the benefit of children.

The first responsibility of NGOs will be to inform the hundreds of millions of people they represent about the commitments made by world leaders on behalf of children. These constituencies will need to work together, nationally and internationally, to build greater solidarity and networks of action in support of children. NGOs have an important advocacy role and will need to remind governments of their promises for children.

The last decade of this century will be a most critical period for children and their rights, and NGO partnerships with governments, inter-governmental organizations and others will be essential if the challenges are to be met. This will require creative mobilization of financial, human and other resources in all communities.

The Summit has created a global concern for children which compels us to identify new mechanisms and infrastructures to act on behalf of children. If the quality of children's lives is to be improved, we must focus on the whole process of development, not merely on specific interventions. Young people, children and their care givers must be actively involved in this process.

The World Summit for Children has opened up new opportunities. The NGO community has a responsibility to help translate the Declaration and Plan of Action into a better world for children. If we do not act now, we will lose this unique moment in history.

New York
October 1st 1990.

23 October 1990
NGO/465/90/ta/c

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