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CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2002-01006

Full Item Register Number [auto] **CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2002-01006**

Ext Ref: Doc Series/Year/Number **SP/SSC/WSC-000-04**

Record Item Title

**Suggested Themes and Topics for the World Summit for Children (1990: 22 May)
[(CF/WSC/1990/PC-021/Rev.4) - Part 4**

Date Created / on Correspondence
5/22/1990

Date Registered
12/27/2001

Date Closed

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

File Container Record ID
File Container Record (Title)

CF/RAF/USAA/DB01/2001-06649
World Summit for Children (WSC) - General folder

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

Record Type **A01ed Item Corr - CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC**

Electronic Details

In TRIM Store. (Text) (11KB)

DOS File Name
World conf.on ed.Attach(d).txt

Alt Bar code = RAMP-TRIM Record Number

CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2002-01006

Notes

Suggestions by Governments; Suggestions by United Nations agencies and offices

Print Name of Person Submit Images

Signature of Person Submit

Number of images
without cover

EDWIN RAMIREZ

50

Submitted by the
Permanent Mission of France
to the United Nations

ANNEXE

Les objectifs de la communauté internationale définis dans la déclaration générale doivent se traduire par des mesures spécifiques. Il est essentiel que celles-ci se réalisent à travers des programmes nationaux tenant compte des priorités suivantes :

1) En matière de santé, dans le cadre des stratégies proposées par l'Unicef pour les années 1990, ces programmes nationaux doivent tendre :

A - A réduire la mortalité et la morbidité (élimination des maladies diarrhéiques, des infections respiratoires aiguës, des carences en oligo-éléments ; élimination du paludisme ; éradication de filariose) :

- par la vaccination pour celles de ces maladies qu'il est possible de prévenir,

- dans le cadre des soins de santé primaires,

- grâce à la décentralisation des unités de santé, animées par des agents mieux informés (notamment sur le Sida), à l'approvisionnement en eau de boisson salubre et la mise en place d'équipements sanitaires, avec la participation des communautés.

B - A lutter contre la malnutrition :

- par la promotion de l'allaitement maternel,*
- la culture d'espèces nutritives à haut rendement,*
- le contrôle de la croissance de l'enfant,*
- la sécurité alimentaire.*

C - A porter une attention particulière à la situation de la femme

- par l'application des recommandations de la Conférence de Nairobi et de Niamey sur la maternité sans risque et la planification familiale,

- par l'intégration des femmes au développement,

- par l'amélioration du statut juridique de la femme.

D - A enrayer la propagation du Sida en appliquant notamment les principes posés par la déclaration de Paris sur "Le Sida, la mère et l'enfant" du 30 novembre 1989.

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2) En matière d'éducation, une priorité doit être accordée à l'éducation fondamentale et à l'alphabétisation. Les mesures doivent être prises tendant à l'universalité de l'éducation primaire (notamment en faveur des enfants de sexe féminin), ainsi qu'à l'amélioration de la qualité de cette éducation et de son adaptation aux besoins locaux.

A cette fin, la combinaison des moyens de communication, des nouvelles techniques pédagogiques et des systèmes traditionnels d'enseignement devraient permettre à tous d'acquérir les connaissances nécessaires à l'amélioration des conditions de vie.

3) Pour les enfants réfugiés, il y a lieu que les programmes de l'Unicef soutiennent l'action de protection et d'assistance menée par le Haut commissariat pour les réfugiés dans les pays d'accueil (cf. résolution 44/137 de l'Assemblée générale).

4) Pour aider les enfants des rues, les Etats étudieront l'adaptation d'un système voisin de celui de l'assistance éducative. La formation de ces enfants à l'apprentissage de métiers devrait être entreprise.

5) Les lois protectrices du travail et celles relatives à la couverture sociale seront appliquées aux enfants qui travaillent.

6) En matière de lutte contre la toxicomanie : donner suite au programme d'action mondial défini par les Nations Unies ; instituer toutes mesures de prévention (visant à éliminer ou réduire la demande) et de réinsertion, en faisant participer la jeunesse à des actions susceptibles d'enlever tout prestige à l'abus des drogues ; soutenir l'action d'interpol.

7) Application stricte de l'article 21 de la Convention internationale relative aux droits de l'enfant, en vue d'éliminer le commerce des enfants.

8) Application de la Convention des Nations Unies sur les droits de l'enfant en ce qui concerne :

- la lutte contre l'exclusion sociale et l'échec scolaire,
- la mise en place d'établissements et de services chargés de veiller au soin et au bien-être des enfants,
- le renforcement de la protection juridique des mineurs et de leur information.

9) La réduction du nombre des suicides des adolescents nécessite la prise en compte des phénomènes dépressifs liés à cette période de la vie et l'information des jeunes sur l'existence des centres de thérapie et des réseaux de solidarité.

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A ce stade de notre réflexion sur le suivi du Sommet et sans trancher cette question, le gouvernement français s'oriente vers la mise en place de mécanismes au niveau tant des Etats que des Nations Unies :

- au niveau national, désignation d'une instance chargée de veiller à la mise en oeuvre des priorités mentionnées ci-dessus,

- au niveau international, suivi par l'Unicef lui-même, en liaison avec le Comité d'experts chargé de l'application de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant, lequel pourrait rédiger ses rapports prévus aux articles 44 et surtout 45 de la Convention, en ayant à l'esprit les conclusions du Sommet. L'Unicef inviterait chaque année les Etats ayant participé au Sommet à lui faire part des progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre des objectifs et priorités définis par celui-ci.

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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New York, 22 March 1990

No. : 456/SOC-339/1990

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to send you a copy of Indonesia's suggestions for the objectives and themes of the Summit, which you will find enclosed herewith.

The content of these suggestions has been made known to the Planning Committee of the Summit, under agenda item 2 of its recent meeting.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

NANA. S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Mr. Michael SHOWER
Executive Secretary
World Summit for Children
UNICEF
New York, N.Y. 10017

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Agenda item : 2

(Objectives and themes of the summit)

Suggestions of Indonesia :

Recognizing the special needs of children for their survival and healthy development, and their role as the future generations and as future agents of development,

Noting the Declaration on the Rights of the Child, and the importance of implementing the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,

The Government of Indonesia believes that the Declaration of the World Summit for Children should include among its themes :

- Today's Children / Tomorrow's World, recalling the Declaration by the Paris Round Table, March 19, 1989 ;
- A call for action; recalling the affirmation of Bangkok, March 1990 ;
- Education for all, recalling the Bangkok Declaration on the Protection of World Children in the 1990's.

The participants of the World Summit for Children could also agree to the following objectives and action to consolidate activities to provide for the basic needs of children and their healthy development :

Objective :

- To implement the joint policy on health by WHO - UNICEF,
- Focus on the providing for children's health and basic needs,
- Reduce both mortality and fertility, through, inter-alia, a strong family planning information and service programme,
- Ensure equal attention to the development of female children, who all too often are neglected, so they develop into healthy, productive members of society,
- Attend to the health and social needs of young pregnant girls,
- Improve the health of mothers by strengthening efforts to provide ante-natal and post-natal care,
- Mobilize activities and generate new financial resources,
- Build alliances among countries and international agencies,
- Reduce disparities,
- Forge community participation.

Four particular vehicles for structuring action for children in the decade ahead:

- a). Mobilization of leadership ;
- b). Communication for mobilization ;
- c). Development of universal legal standards for the protection of children ; through the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Plan of Action :

Each country should fulfill their responsibilities consistent with the articles of the international convention on the rights of the child, within the international context.

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Agenda item 5
(Objectives and themes of the summit)

Suggestions of Indonesia :

Recognizing the special needs of children for their survival and healthy development, and their role as the future generations and as future agents of development,

Noting the Declaration on the Rights of the Child, and the importance of implementing the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,

The Government of Indonesia believes that the Declaration of the World Summit for Children should include among its themes :

- Today's Children / Tomorrow's World, recalling the Declaration by the Paris Round Table, March 19, 1989;
- A call for action; recalling the affirmation of Bangkok, March 1990;
- Education for all, recalling the Bangkok Declaration on the Protection of World Children in the 1990's.

The participants of the World Summit for Children could also agree to the following objectives and action to consolidate activities to provide for the basic needs of children and their healthy development :

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- Attend to the health and social needs of young pregnant girls,
- Improve the health of mothers by strengthening efforts to provide ante-natal and post-natal care,
- Mobilize activities and generate new financial resources,
- Build alliances among countries and international agencies,
- Reduce disparities,
- Forge community participation.

Four particular vehicles for structuring action for children in the decade ahead:

- a) Mobilization of leadership;
- b) Communication for mobilization;
- c) Development of universal legal standards for the protection of children through the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Plan of Action :

Each country should fulfill their responsibilities consistent with the articles of the international convention on the rights of the child, within the international context.

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TELEPHONE 431-6934

PERMANENT MISSION OF
IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
1 DAO HANMARSKJÖLD PLAZA
888 SECOND AVENUE, 19TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

26 February, 1990

H.E. Mr. L. Yves Fortier
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Canada
to the United Nations
866 UN Plaza
Suite 250
New York
N.Y. 10017

Dear Ambassador,

I wish to refer to discussions within the Planning Committee for the Summit for Children in which delegations undertook to supply ideas on the themes which might be usefully addressed at the Summit.

I enclose a list of ideas which have been supplied by the relevant Irish authorities. I would emphasise that this list is provisional and that Ireland is prepared to provide additional material at a future date. I would also stress that my delegation has been impressed with the suggestions for the central themes of the Summit which have already been provided by inter-alia Italy and France.

Set out below are our present ideas for the themes of the Summit:-

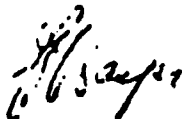
- the pivotal role of education in promoting the well-being and development of children.
- the need to ensure that all educational systems enhance the understanding by children of their own culture and traditions, also developing respect for the richness of diverse cultures and other traditions, including those of minorities.

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the central requirement that all children, irrespective of race, sex or ability share the same local facilities.

- the provision of adequate national resources to meet the special needs of children with disabilities and disadvantages.
- the promotion of the participation of economically underprivileged children in the education process.
- the need for consideration to be given, wherever appropriate, of dealing with juvenile offenders without resort to formal trial in the judicial system.

Yours sincerely,



Permanent Representative of Ireland

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The Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations
782

New York, 16 February 1990

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am sending you copy of a letter sent to Ambassador Fortier concerning proposals for the Summit Declaration.

Sincerely yours


Vieri Traxler
Ambassador

Mr. James GRANT
Executive Director
U N I C E F H-13P
3, United Nations Plaza
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN	
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*The Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations*
781

New York, 22 February 1990

Dear Ambassador Fortier,

I refer to the request made in the Planning Committee for the Summit for Children, that members of the said Committee give ideas as to the themes that could be dealt with in the Summit Declaration.

We would recommend the inclusion of the issues listed hereunder:

- children on national political agendas;
- AIDS orphans and in general the effects of AIDS diffusion on childrens' lives;
- adjustment with a human face;
- a home for every child;
- education as a fundamental right of the child;
- UN capacity to help Governments design and implement policies for children.

We also support the proposals already made by France and the United Kingdom in this respect.

I am sending copy of this letter to the Executive Director of UNICEF.

Sincerely yours

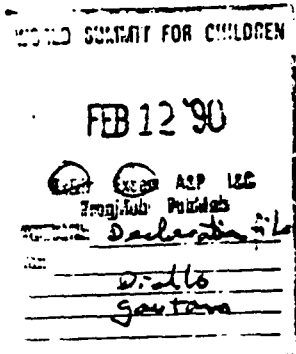

Vieri Traxler

Ambassador

H.E. Mr. L. Yves FORTIER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Canada
to the United Nations
866 U.N. Plaza, Suite 250
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

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SC/045/90



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

12 February 1990

Dear Mr. Shower,

I wish to send herewith our comments on themes for the declaration to be adopted at the World Summit for Children. We hope our comments will be duly taken into account in drafting a thematic paper to be prepared by the Secretariat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Minagawa".

Kazuo Minagawa
First Secretary

Michael Shower
Executive Secretary
World Summit for Children
UNICEF
3 United Nations Plaza, H-13-S
New York, N.Y. 10017

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8 February 1990
Permanent Mission of Japan
to the United Nations

Comments on themes for the declaration to be
adopted at the World Summit for Children

1. The declaration should articulate moral guidelines for the policies to be formulated by governments and international organizations in the field of child welfare. It should put forward policy objectives in a general but succinct term.

2. Political and religious issues, which might give rise to disputes among countries concerned, should be avoided. The declaration should focus on what really needs to be done for children from the humanitarian point of view.

3. Objectives and themes should be practical and attainable; several should be selected from among the diverse policies and strategies which have been implemented to date, mainly by UNICEF. Themes that may require mobilization of new funds, for example, through the establishment of a trust fund, should be carefully approached in the light of the generally difficult financial situation of many countries.

3. With a view to playing up the significant activities of UNICEF, it is important to make extensive reference to the results they have achieved.

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4. The following are themes consistent with these basic points and shall be considered for incorporation in the declaration.

(1) Establishment of the principle of first call for children

Reference should be made to the adverse effects of such problems as poverty and starvation on children who are, after all, our future. (If the term "children" is used to include juveniles, reference might also be made to such other issues as victimization stemming from the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances.) We are afraid, on the other hand, that reference to such issues as external debts, structural adjustments, and commodities, to which UNICEF attaches importance, risks provoking political arguments. Reference to these issues therefore should be kept strictly to a minimum.

(2) The Convention on the Rights of the Child

The declaration should emphasize the importance of the Convention and encourage governments to make further efforts to protect the rights of the child in accordance with the Convention.

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(3) Ensuring the survival, development and protection of children

Emphasis should be put on the achievements and significance of the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI), the need to reduce infant and under-five mortality rates, and maternity mortality rates.

(4) Following themes should also be properly touched upon in the declaration.

- o Improvement of universal basic education

- o Improvement of basic health and hygiene services

- o Advancement of the status of women

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Misión de México ante las Naciones Unidas
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA 28TH FLOOR NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

No. 001130

La Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas saluda atentamente al Secretario Ejecutivo de la Cumbre Mundial en Pro de la Infancia y tiene el honor de hacer referencia al futuro texto de Declaración Política y eventual Programa de Acción que habrán de emanar del citado evento.

La Misión Permanente de México, a reserva de transmitir posteriormente mayores comentarios sobre la estructura y el contenido deseable de la Declaración y/o el Plan de Acción antes mencionados, tiene el agrado de enlistar a continuación los temas que podrían ser considerados para el texto de los referidos documentos:

1. Salud infantil. Inmunización, rehidratación oral, alimentación, nutrición, control de enfermedades, sanidad y acceso a agua potable.
2. Educación. A nivel elemental para toda la población infantil educación no formal. Educación para la salud y el medio ambiente.
3. Explotación y tráfico de niños. Regimen de adopción. Protección del niño en materia laboral.
4. Salud y nutrición de la mujer.
5. Prioridad a los cuidados de la niñez en los planes nacionales.
6. Efectos de la deuda externa, los ajustes estructurales y los términos desiguales del intercambio comercial en la capacidad de los países en desarrollo para proporcionar condiciones de bienestar a los niños en esos países.

* * *



Misión de México ante las Naciones Unidas
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA 28TH FLOOR NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

- 2 -

7. Transferencia de recursos para el desarrollo a fin de asegurar la supervivencia, protección y desarrollo de la niñez.
8. Pobreza, malnutrición, epidemias, desarrollo inadecuado y protección de los niños en situación difícil en países en desarrollo: niños en la calle, niños del ámbito rural.
9. Niños en circunstancias especiales. Niños retardados, niños invalidos, niños refugiados, niños trabajadores migratorios y el menor infractor.
10. Situación del niño indígena.
11. Convención de los derechos del niño. Apoyo para su firma y ratificación.
12. Protección del medio ambiente para proteger la salud infantil.

La Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas aprovecha la ocasión para reiterar al Secretario Ejecutivo de la Cumbre Mundial en Pro de la Infancia, las seguridades de su atenta consideración.

Nueva York, N.Y. 10 de abril de 1990.

Sr. Michael Shower,
Secretario Ejecutivo de la
Cumbre Mundial en Pro de
la Infancia.
Naciones Unidas,
Nueva York.



MISION PERMANENTE
DE MEXICO
ANTE LA ORGANIZACION
DE LAS
NACIONES UNIDAS
NUEVA YORK, N.Y.

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations
711 Third Avenue, 9th floor
New York, N.Y. 10017
tel. (212) 697-5547

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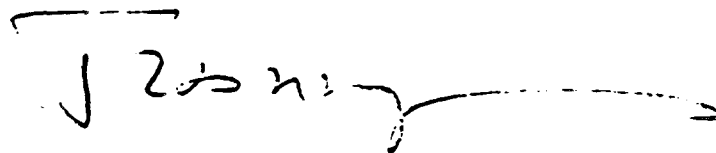
UNIT FOR CHILDREN
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TO: *Quaten*
Dialto

New York, 12 February 1990

On behalf of the Netherlands member of the Planning Committee, Mr. J.P. Pronk, Minister for Development Co-operation, I submit to you the following suggestions regarding the themes for the World Summit for Children:

- the Declaration of the World Summit should concentrate on the improvement of the situation of children in developing countries "ensuring the survival, protection and development of children".
- in this respect the following themes deserve particular attention, beside general themes like nutrition and health:
 - the importance of birth spacing for the improvement of the living conditions of children and their parents, particularly mothers;
 - the improvement of the position of women, which has almost always a direct and favourable impact on the living conditions, health and educational level of their children;
 - policies directed to the girl child. Efforts aimed at the improvement of the position of women should not be restricted to adult women. Discrimination starts at birth and has far-reaching consequences; malnutrition and low level of education lead to poor health and a weak economic position;
 - the spread of the HIV-virus, which is a threat for children in the developing countries of which the proportions are only about to become clear. The issue is not only infection of children with the HIV-virus, but also the great number of orphans as a result of the decease of parents/mothers suffering from AIDS;
- other subjects, such as education, drug-use by children, the deterioration of the physical environment and street children are also of great interest, provided they deal with the situation of children in developing countries.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Majoor
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Alternate member of the Planning
Committee for the World Summit
for Children

Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director,
Under-Secretary-General UNICEF
Room H-13P
Three United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017

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PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN ON THE
DECLARATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

The declaration should be in two parts. Part I should be relatively short and concise political declaration, constituting a commitment by the international community to the special needs and the rights of the children. The second part should contain objectives, recommendations and a programme of action to be implemented at national, regional and international levels. This part of the declaration may also identify monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, preferably within the existing organizational and institutional frame-work of the United Nations.

The declaration may:-

- Recall universal declaration of human rights wherein the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.
- Welcome the adoption by the 44th Session of the UN General Assembly of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Express hope that all nations will ratify its text and begin to enact its provisions into national laws to ensure its observance so that it may gradually become the standard and norm of all civilized nations, rich or poor.
- Affirm obligation of all states to give the children,

a world free of war, and, to extent possible, within the role of governments, lives free of violence, ill health, malnutrition, abuse and exploitation.

- Express determination to provide educational and other opportunities to the children for the development of their full potential.
- Welcome the reduction in international tensions and the progress achieved during the past few years towards disarmament. It is also heartening to note that environmental issues are receiving increasing attention of the international community. While efforts should be maintained to strengthen further these trends, it is equally important to tackle effectively the task of alleviation of poverty and under-development in many areas of the world. For both moral and practical reasons, there can be no real advance towards a genuinely civilized and environmentally sustainable world society without addressing the problem of gross inequity and absolute poverty.
- Point out that unfortunately, the income gap between rich and the poor nations is widening every year. Per capita income levels in most of the developing countries remain woefully low. Over one billion people, a fifth of mankind, still lack adequate food, clean water, elementary education and basic health care.

- State further that the long-term consequences of poverty and suffering on the present scale will affect us all, and affect us increasingly, as we move towards a new millenium. Malnutrition means poor physical and mental growth, poor performance at school and at work, and the perpetuation of poverty from one generation to the next. Lack of education precludes people from contributing fully to, or benefitting fully from, the development of their communities and their nations. Economic development and the eradication of poverty, particularly in the developing countries, which are inseparably linked to the proper care and bringing up of children, must, therefore, be issues of the highest priority for the international community.
- State that the concept of confrontation and nuclear deterrence has threatened the survival of the world's children.
- In South Africa, and till recently Namibia, the children have been worst hit by the abhorrent system of apartheid which discriminates against them from their very birth.
- Millions of people in this world are refugees from their own countries, forced to abandon homes and roots, seeking food and shelter - and half of all these sufferers are children.
- State that drug abuse has emerged as a global menace to

very large numbers of young people, and, increasingly, to children, specially if one takes into account the permanent damage incurred in the pre-natal stages of life.

- Urge concerted action by Governments of drug producing, consuming and intermediary countries to check this scourge. Equally important is community action and education, which are vitally needed to curb both supply and demand of illicit drugs.

- Highlight the plight of the millions of the world's poor and vulnerable children that have been exposed to the sharpest edges of poverty and deprivation and have paid the Third World's debt by the sacrifice of their normal growth, their health and the loss of their opportunity to be educated. The sheer scale of the debt crisis means that specific action to protect the health, nutrition, and education of young children is unlikely to be sufficient in many countries, without some significant progress against the problem of debt itself.

- Acknowledge:-
 - i. that in the world today some 14 million young children die each year, more than half of whom die from causes which are readily preventable.

 - ii. that many thousands of children are born with permanent disabilities, or acquire disabilities in early life, because of disease, malnutrition drug abuse and other preventable causes.

- iii. that too many children in the world today are malnourished, abused, exploited and uneducated and that for many who are born today the future will bring misery, deprivation, ignorance and early death.
- iv. that the nations of the world have given insufficient priority to the welfare of its children. Their future must be a shared responsibility for us all. They have the right to be born into a world where their needs are met and their potential may be realised.

- Pledge:-

- a. that the protection of children, their nurture and development will be the top priority of each nation, at all times and in all circumstances.
- b. that in cooperation with each other, and by the use of international agencies, we will share the resources of wealth, information, technology and skill, currently available and will apply them to the creation of services in health, education and social welfare directed to the benefit of children worldwide.
- c. that through legislation, each country will develop a framework which guarantees the basic right of every child to be healthy, adequately nourished, educated and free from the fear of exploitation and abuse by adults.

- Seek to achieve the following objectives in the next decade:-

- i. reduction of the mortality rate of children under-5 in all countries by 33% or to a level of 70 per. 1000 live births whichever is less.
- ii. reduction of maternal mortality rates by 33%.
- iii. reduction of malnutrition in children by 50%.
- iv. provision of universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.
- v. universal access to basic education and the

provision of a full primary programme for 80% of children of school age.

- vi. reduction of the adult illiteracy rate by 50% of 1990 levels with a special emphasis on female literacy.
- vii. guarantees for the care and protection of children in difficult circumstances caused by armed conflict and by the breakdown of family support.
- viii. access for all, especially women, to information about birth-spacing, nutrition, hygiene and the care of the newly born.
- ix. the elimination of polio, iodine deficiency, measles, neo-natal tetanus, guinea-worm disease, vitamin A deficiency, which causes the death or disability of 25 million children and adults world wide and which are readily preventable.
- x. reduction by 50% in deaths of 7 million young children per year because of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections.
- xi. ensure early detection of disabilities among children, their treatment, education, training and rehabilitation for mainstreaming.
- xii. prevention of child labour, hazardous work, child abuse and maltreatment.
- xiii. concerted action by Governments to prevent production of drugs and their consumption and trafficking. Equally important is community action and education which are vitally needed to curb both supply and demand of illicit drugs.
- xiv. promotion of healthy life style by creating awareness to risks and other associated negative implications of smoking, use of alcohol and other damaging practices.
- xv. ensure separate provision of funds for specific needs of children in all social sectors and development plans. All plans may spell out quantified goals and identified budget allocation for specific needs of children.
- xvi. ensure joint research and implementation of measures for protection of human environment for healthy growth and development of children.

- Urge all countries to:-
 - a. ratify and implement the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989.
 - b. accept that the Convention establishes the minimum standards for children's survival, health and education and freedom from exploitation and that it represents the level below which any civilized nation, rich or poor, will be ashamed to fall.
 - c. accept and take affirmative action on the general goals and specific objectives set out in this World Declaration for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990's.

- Proclaim 1991-2000 to be the Universal Decade for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children.

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H Dahlgren
Feb 14, 1990

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Government of Sweden

Some views on the Declaration of the World Summit for Children

THE FORMAT

It should be a short document, written in a crisp political prose, without technical details.

It should include first a descriptive part, then some analysis, and finally an action program.

What is very important is that the declaration not only describes, and suggests -- but that it also is a firm commitment on the part of the signatories - as well as an appeal to all other political leaders.

POSSIBLE THEMES

We have assembled at the United Nations to make a commitment and to issue an appeal.

The issue at hand is more important than any other single political issue -- the future of children, the future of our whole world.

The children are worst affected by global survival problems.

The future of our civilization is that of our children.

Children's issues are not separate.

International relations and the search for common security.

Human rights and an end to apartheid.

Economic relations: the need to tackle poverty and debts.

Avoiding an environmental disaster.

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Health for all - child mortality must be reduced and can be reduced.

Improved education for all young people.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child - we urge its rapid ratification.

Children must be the first priority.

A joint plan of action:

1. Ratification of the Convention.
2. Information about children's rights.
3. Transfer of resources for development.
4. Improve children's health.
5. Educational program against illiteracy.
6. Peaceful solutions of conflicts, substantial international disarmament.
7. Protect the human environment.
8. Support to NGO's and UNICEF.

The international climate has improved - gives a unique opportunity to choose a better future for all children.

We make political commitment to give the highest priority to children's rights and to their future.

THE DRAFTING

Perhaps a small group of drafters should now be asked by the initiators' representatives to produce a first draft declaration, taking with them proposed themes and any suggested language, with the goal of having this first draft circulated before the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

If that would be of any help, we have made short drafts of the themes suggested above.

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Unofficial Translation

U.S.S.R. Suggestions for themes

In accordance with the agreement reached and adopted by the Planning Committee, we pass summarized ideas and proposals of the Soviet Ministries and relevant departments concerning the draft Final Declaration of a World Summit for Children.

1. Conditions for a harmonious development of children should be created. This is a major factor of the process of the development of the whole of civilization.

It is necessary to fight for ecologically clean surroundings of the child by means, first of all, of providing children with ecologically clean food products, bringing down the level of the contamination (pollution of the environment, etc.

2. To develop (in accordance with the regulations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) and to adopt the legal rules or/and mechanisms protecting childhood and motherhood in all countries (the social and medical aspects should be included).

3. To create the conditions which could give children throughout the world an access to the most up-to-date and sophisticated kinds (sorts) of medical assistance by means of the mobilization of the efforts and resources of the international community and all states towards the solving of this problem which is the one having priority for the world's social development.

Viewing at this context we should have a look at the possibility to establish (to create) Children's Assistance International Centre, which is to give a helping hand to those children who suffered from natural ecological, (economic) disasters, disastrous effects of wars, etc. The Centre, working under the auspices of the WHO, UNICEF and the Red Cross, could have the web of the so called "correspondence-institutions" or/and branches which could be established on the basis of national medical institutions.

4. Education and family upbringing require a great level of the international cooperation and mutual understanding in spreading their most effective forms.

It is necessary to create the equal conditions for upbringing and education of children in the world irrespective of existing social, national, religious and other differences. We should give children access to the achievements of science and technological progress.

To facilitate this - it is necessary to develop by the leading scientists, authors of international education programmes such as "History of the World's Culture", "History of the World's literature", etc. Such programmes, including computer processed programmes could be given by international organizations to all countries concerned.

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5. Along with these problems the Declaration could include the specific goals in the realm of protection of the childhood and motherhood, which the international community wants to achieve on the threshold of the XXI century.

In this context it is possible to indicate perspectives for the international organizations, such as UNICEF/WHO in their programmes like Universal Child immunization, reduction of child mortality rates, etc.

6. To our view, it is very important to seal the principle of the need to protect children's social and economic interests. Children must not suffer from the aftermath of contradictions and disproportions turned out in the world economy.

We would like to inform you that the Soviet Children's Fund in addition to what has been mentioned before considers it necessary to include in the Declaration the following points:

1. To look for ways and means to speed up international cooperation and mobilization of the national efforts to provide conditions for reduction of child mortality rates, to fight against mass epidemics, starvation, spreading drugs and alcoholism, to bring up the children with respect to people of any nationality, religion, race, etc.

2. The main issue at this time is the need to pay attention to the conditions of the children not only in the developing countries, but we should pay great attention to the children in all countries.

In this regard the best people, the best achievements in science and technology must be given (transformed) to the children to solve their problems of development. It must be done on the basis of international integration, international contributions, international exchange of scientific information and free medical treatment of the children in the best world's medical centers and institutions.

3. To express the readiness of the World Community to cooperate with air and tour (travel) companies and give the children substantive privileges to enforce the existing exchange of tourists, education and cultural exchange, etc.

We sincerely hope that these ideas will be reflected fully during the preparatory period for the draft Final Declaration.

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